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BATMAN AND ROBIN

By BOB KANE

EVERY DAY THEY DUELED WITH DEATH. THEIR JOBS WERE SO PERILOUS THAT NO COMPANY WOULD INSURE THEIR LIVES. THE STEEPLEJACK WHO DARED DIZZYING HEIGHTS... THE JET-PILOT WHO FLEW FASTER THAN SOUND... THE DEEP-SEA DIVER WHO BRAVED UNCHARTED DEPTHS. IT IS THIS CIRCLE OF SUPER-HEROES THAT THE FAMED **BATMAN** JOINS WHEN HE BECOMES A MEMBER OF...

THE DANGER CLUB

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BATMAN

EACH DAY, IN GOTHAM CITY, A GROUP OF HEROIC MEN PURSUE THEIR PERILOUS OCCUPATIONS. THERE IS THE PILOT WHO TESTS NEW, UNTRIED JET PLANES...

WHEW! AT THIS SPEED, I NEARLY RAN INTO THAT TRANSPORT PLANE!

ROAR

AND THE CHEMIST WHO EXPERIMENTS WITH DANGEROUS NEW EXPLOSIVES!

IF MY NEW SAFETY DEVICE DOESN'T WORK, I'LL BE BLOWN TO KINGDOM COME!

AND THE TROUBLE-SHOOTER WHO WORKS HIGH IN THE AIR UPON HIGH-VOLTAGE WIRES!

THAT GUST OF WIND NEAR BLEW ME OFF!

IT IS SUCH MEN OF HAZARD WHO HAVE FORMED GOTHAM CITY'S MOST EXCITING ORGANIZATION ...THE DANGER CLUB...

YOU OUGHT TO SAVE YOUR MONEY INSTEAD OF BLOWING IT ALL ON GAY PARTIES, MILDING!

LOOK, LARSON. A JET-PLANE TEST-PILOT LIKE ME MAY GET KILLED ANY DAY... I'M ENJOYING LIFE WHILE I CAN!

AND ADMISSION TO THE DANGER CLUB IS NOT EASY, AS ITS PRESIDENT, EXPLOSIVES-EXPERT JOHN CAREW, EXPLAINS TO A NEW APPLICANT!

BUT I'M A TAXI-DRIVER, AND DRIVING CAN BE DANGEROUS! CAN'T I BECOME A MEMBER?

NO, JACK THORN... OUR CLUB IS ONLY FOR MEN WHO HAVE SUPER-DANGEROUS JOBS, AND CAN'T GET LIFE INSURANCE. IT'S FOR OUR PROTECTION ...WE ALL CONTRIBUTE TO AN ACCIDENT-FUND WE KEEP IN CASE ONE OF US GETS KILLED!

YOUR OCCUPATION IS NOT RISKY ENOUGH, SO WE CAN'T TAKE YOU! WE'RE A VERY SMALL GROUP!

BUT I WANT TO JOIN THE DANGER CLUB SO MUCH... I'LL CHANGE MY JOB! I'LL BECOME A RACE-TRACK DRIVER! THAT'S DANGEROUS ENOUGH!

YES, RACING IS DANGEROUS...TOO DANGEROUS FOR A NOVICE DRIVER WHO TAKES TOO MANY CHANCES! FOR SOON...

THORN CRACKED UP!

MACK, IT'S YOUR KID BROTHER!

CRASH

HE'S DEAD, MACK!

YES...AND IT WAS THAT *DANGER CLUB* THAT REALLY KILLED HIM! HE WAS CRAZY TO GET INTO THAT GLAMOROUS OUTFIT, AND THEY WOULDN'T LET HIM JOIN BECAUSE HIS WORK WASN'T RISKY ENOUGH!

AND THAT NIGHT, TO THE ***DANGER CLUB'S*** *WEEKLY MEETING, COMES A GRIM ACCUSER...*

YOU AND YOUR *DANGER CLUB* CAUSED MY BROTHER'S DEATH! I HOPE THAT THE DANGEROUS JOBS EACH OF YOU MAKES SO MUCH OF WILL KILL EVERY ONE OF YOU!

BUT IT'S NOT OUR FAULT THAT YOUR BROTHER CHOSE THAT CAREER!

THAT MAN WAS *THREATENING* US!

HE'S ONLY GRIEF-STRICKEN... WE'LL FORGET IT! I'M LEAVING NOW. I HAVE TO PREPARE AT THE PLANT FOR A BIG BLASTING JOB TOMORROW!

BUT THAT NIGHT, THE DANGER HE HAS LONG DEFIED BRINGS DEATH TO JOHN CAREW, PRESIDENT OF THE ***DANGER CLUB!***

THE PLANT STOREHOUSE BLEW UP! AND ONLY CAREW, THE EXPLOSIVES EXPERT, WAS IN THERE! HE MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY SET OFF A BLAST!

NOTICE

VOOM

ROLLING THUNDEROUSLY ACROSS GOTHAM CITY, THE DISTANT STROKE OF DOOM REACHES THE EARS OF TWO EERIE CAPED FIGURES HIGH IN THE LOFTY CITY...

BATMAN, THAT WAS A BIG EXPLOSION FROM THE SUBURBS!

WE COULD BE NEEDED! QUICK, ***ROBIN*** BACK TO THE ***BATMOBILE!***

BOOM

AS THE SLEEK **BATMOBILE** HURTLES THROUGH SLEEPING STREETS, ALARMS ARE ALREADY SHRILLING THEIR WARNING!

LOOKS LIKE THE GOTHAM ENGINEERING COMPANY'S OFFICES... THE FIREMEN MUST BE ALREADY THERE!

CLANG CLANG CLANG

THEIR EXPLOSIVES EXPERT, JOHN CAREW, WAS IN THERE ALONE... HE WAS A CAREFUL MAN, AND I CAN'T SEE HOW THIS HAPPENED!

CAREW WAS PRESIDENT OF THE ***DANGER CLUB, BATMAN!*** WE'VE SENT FOR ITS OFFICERS, MAYBE THEY CAN GIVE US MORE INFORMATION!

WHEN THE OFFICERS OF THE **DANGER CLUB** ARRIVE, THE INFORMATION THEY GIVE IS STARTLING...

I'M LARSON, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB, AND THIS IS MILDING, OUR SECRETARY! I SUSPECT THAT CRAZY MACK THORN WHO THREATENED WE'D ALL DIE FROM OUR DANGEROUS JOBS HAD A HAND IN THIS!

CERTAINLY POOR CAREW DIED FROM ***HIS*** DANGEROUS JOB!

WHEN **BATMAN** HAS HEARD THE TALE OF THORN'S GRIM WARNING...

WE'LL FIND THORN AND QUESTION HIM! YOU CALL TOGETHER THE MEMBERS OF THE ***DANGER CLUB***, SO I CAN TALK TO THEM!

I'LL CALL THEM AT ONCE!

BUT AT MACK THORN'S COTTAGE HOME...

HE'S NOT AT HIS TRUCK-DRIVING JOB, NOR IS HE HERE! ***BATMAN***, THORN MUST BE GUILTY IF HE'S HIDING OUT!

LOOKS LIKE IT! HMM... THIS OLD SNAPSHOT SHOWS THAT THORN WAS ONCE A MERCHANT SAILOR!

MOST LIKELY THORN WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE BY SHIPPING OUT... YOU CHECK ALL SHIPS ABOUT TO SAIL! I'LL BE AT THE ***DANGER CLUB!***

RIGHT! I'LL CALL YOU BY BELT-RADIO IF I GET ON HIS TRAIL!

SOON, AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DANGER CLUB!

YOU MAY ALL BE IN DANGER OF BEING MURDERED! I SUGGEST THAT, SINCE ALL MEMBERS ARE MENACED, I JOIN YOUR CLUB TO INVESTIGATE THIS PERIL!

WE'D FEEL HONORED TO HAVE YOU! BUT, AS A FORMALITY, ALL NEW MEMBERS MUST TESTIFY THAT THEY'VE PASSED THROUGH AT LEAST THREE SERIOUS DANGERS! WE KNOW *YOU'VE* HAD HUNDREDS BUT PLEASE REPORT THREE!

"*BATMAN'S* TESTIMONIALS OF DANGER! FIRST... THERE WAS THE TIME THE *JOKER* TRAPPED ME IN THAT GIANT ROULETTE WHEEL ON *'GAMBLER'S ISLE'!*"

HAHA HA HO HO

"AND THE TIME, IN OUR SEARCH FOR THE MYSTERIOUS WHITE WHALE, WHEN IT FOUND *US!*"

"THEN THERE WAS THE TIME DR. DOOM PENETRATED THE *BAT-CAVE* AND TURNED OUR OWN ROBOT DINOSAUR-TROPHY UPON US!"

UNANIMOUSLY, THE *DANGER CLUB* ACCEPTS *BATMAN* AS A MEMBER! AND AS THE MEETING BREAKS UP...

BATMAN, I'M WORRIED... I HAVE A NEW JET PLANE TO TEST TOMORROW MORNING! IF THORN ISN'T CAUGHT BY THEN, MAYBE HE'LL TRY FOR ME, TOO!

DON'T WORRY, MILDING! I'LL BE COVERING YOUR TEST, JUST IN CASE!

LATER, IN THE *BAT-CAVE* HIDDEN UNDER THE MANSION OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE, *BATMAN'S* OTHER IDENTITY...

I CHECKED ALL SHIPS BUT NO LUCK SO FAR!

KEEP AT IT, *ROBIN!* I'M GOING TO USE THE *BAT-PLANE* TO COVER MILDING'S TEST-FLIGHT IN THE MORNING, IN CASE THERE'S AN ATTEMPT ON HIM!

IT'S A NERVOUS PILOT WHO PREPARES FOR A DANGEROUS TEST!

THIS NEW PLANE SEEMS ALL RIGHT... BUT THORN MIGHT STRIKE AT ME FROM ANOTHER PLANE!

TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T, I'VE BROUGHT THE BATPLANE... I'LL FLY NEAR YOU!

PRESENTLY, THE EXPERIMENTAL JET-POWERED PLANE SCREAMS INTO THE SKY, BUT THE SUPER-POWERED BATPLANE KEEPS PACE WITH IT!

MILDING SEEMS SAFE ENOUGH! THERE'S NO OTHER PLANE AROUND AND NOTHING... BUT WAIT! THAT'S SMOKE COMING FROM MILDING'S PLANE!

AND SUDDENLY, A SWIFT SHIP PLUNGES TOWARD ITS DOOM...

MILDING BAILED OUT IN TIME! BUT I'D BETTER LAND... THERE'S FIRM GROUND BEYOND THE SWAMP!

I'M NOT HURT, BUT I'M SHAKEN UP! THE PLANE'S MOTOR FAILED STRANGELY, ALL OF A SUDDEN!

YOU'D BETTER GO ON HOME... I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THAT PLANE'S WRECKAGE!

THE PLANE'S ALREADY SINKING INTO THIS BOG, BUT I STILL HAVE A LITTLE TIME... HM! THIS IS INTERESTING...

I'LL JUST TAKE THIS BACK TO STUDY, AND... OHHH!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT TRACK ME DOWN, BATMAN... BUT YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE! SLEEP SOFT... IN HALF AN HOUR YOU'LL BE GONE WITHOUT A TRACE!

THE MINUTES TICK BY... AND TO THE BATMAN COMES A TERRIBLE AWAKENING...

I'M CAUGHT IN THIS QUICKSAND MUD! CAN'T USE MY ROPE TO PULL OUT WITH, FOR THERE'S NOTHING SOLID TO LOOP IT AROUND! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO GET ROBIN BY BELT-RADIO!

ROBIN, GET HERE FAST! COME ALONG THE SWAMP ROAD... I'LL MAKE A SMOKE-SIGNAL TO GUIDE YOU TO ME!

I'LL BE THERE IN MINUTES, BATMAN! HANG ON!

THESE ISOLATED REEDS WON'T BURN FAR AND THE WIND WILL CARRY THE FLAME AND SMOKE AWAY FROM ME...

A FRENZY OF ANXIETY BRINGS THE BOY WONDER SPEEDING, ALMOST TOO LATE...

IT SEEMS HOPELESS, ROBIN! YOU CAN'T PULL ME OUT BY YOUR OWN STRENGTH!

BUT I CAN RUN THE BATMOBILE ONTO THE NEAREST FIRM GROUND AND USE ITS EMERGENCY-CABLE TO HOOK ONTO YOUR ROPE AND YANK YOU!

THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE, IN DIRE EMERGENCY, SERVES ITS OWNERS WELL!

THEN WHOEVER SABOTAGED MILDING'S PLANE WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU FOUND NO CLUE IN THE WRECKAGE!

BUT I DID FIND A CLUE... PART OF THE BOMB HIDDEN IN HIS PLANE! WE'LL LOOK IT OVER BACK IN OUR LABORATORY!

IN THE BAT-CAVE'S CRIME-LABORATORY, THE TWO SLEUTHS STUDY A VITAL CLUE!

BUT NO HIGH EXPLOSIVE BOMB WE HAVE RECORD OF HAS SUCH A VALVE-DEVICE AS THAT!

SUCH VALVES AS THIS ARE ONLY USED ON GAS OR VAPOR BOMBS... AND THAT'S THE CLUE THAT POINTS OUT THE KILLER!

HE BELIEVES I'M DONE FOR, AND WILL STRIKE FAST AT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE **DANGER CLUB!** **ROBIN**, WE'VE GOT TO HURRY TO STOP HIM!

I STILL DON'T SEE WHAT YOUR CLUE MEANS, BUT AS LONG AS THORN IS LOOSE THERE'S DANGER!

CARSON IS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE **DANGER CLUB** WORKING AT HIS JOB TODAY... REPAIRING CABLE ON THE LINCOLN BRIDGE!

BATMAN, LOOK... THAT MAN UP ON THE TOWER THERE ISN'T REPAIRING CABLE, BUT **CUTTING** IT!

WITH THE SUPERB AGILITY OF TRAINED ACROBATS, THE TWO CAPED FIGURES SWIFTLY SCALE THE TOWER, AND THEN...

BATMAN!

LOOK OUT, **BATMAN**... HE HAS A GUN! AND THAT CABLE'S RED-HOT ...I CAN'T GRAB HOLD OF IT!

GO BACK, **ROBIN!** CARSON DOESN'T KNOW HE'S IN DANGER, OUT THERE ...GET HIM DOWN OFF THE CABLE!

TOO LATE, **BATMAN**... I CAN CATCH THIS **ROBIN** ON THE WING! AND THEN...

YIPE!

THE **BATARANG** COMES IN HANDY FOR THROWING AROUND CORNERS!

BUT AS THE BATMAN TRIES TO CLOSE WITH THE MASKED KILLER...

I'VE GOT A WARM RECEPTION FOR YOU, **BATMAN!**

I CAN'T GET UP THERE WHILE HE HAS THE TORCH... MY ROPE IS THE ONLY CHANCE...

THE SILKEN ROPE FLASHES UP WITH ALL THE EXPERT SKILL OF BATMAN BEHIND IT!

IF I CAN KEEP IT CLEAR OF THE FLAME AND SLIP IT AROUND THE ACETYLENE-TANK... DID IT!

WHAT...

A SWIFT YANK... AND THE DEADLY TOOL HURTLES DOWN TOWARD THE RIVER FAR BELOW...

NOW WE CAN MEET ON EVEN TERMS!

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

TWO FIGURES PLUMMET DOWN THE STANCHION-ROD IN A DIZZY SLIDE TO BRIDGE LEVEL, BUT AS THE SECOND REACHES IT...

WHEN EMERGENCY REPAIRS HAVE BEEN MADE...

CARSON, I WANT YOU TO CALL THE DANGER CLUB TOGETHER AT ONCE... TELL THEM I'LL PRODUCE THORN THERE! I THINK I KNOW NOW WHERE HE IS!

BUT HE GOT AWAY... ALL RIGHT, I'LL CALL THEM!

AND SOON, A FATEFUL MEETING OF THE DANGER CLUB...

THEN YOU DID FIND THORN! HE'LL PAY FOR CAREW'S MURDER!

I... I DIDN'T MURDER ANYONE! SOMEONE KNOCKED ME OUT, DRUGGED ME... I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE TILL BATMAN WOKE ME UP!

A LIKELY STORY!

HE'S GETTING AWAY... BUT WITH THAT CABLE HALF-CUT, I HAVE TO GET TRAFFIC ON THIS BRIDGE STOPPED UNTIL REPAIRS ARE MADE!

BUT IT'S TRUE, MILDING! IT WASN'T THORN WHO TRIED TO KILL THE DANGER CLUB MEMBERS! IT WAS ONE OF YOU MEMBERS, WHO THOUGHT THORN COULD BE MADE THE SCAPEGOAT BECAUSE OF HIS THREAT!

ONE OF US? THAT'S INSANE! WHAT MOTIVE WOULD ONE OF US HAVE?

MILDING, AS SECRETARY YOU HAD CHARGE OF THE CLUB'S BIG ACCIDENT FUND! IF THE OTHER MEMBERS DIED, AS SOLE SURVIVING MEMBER IT WOULD ALL COME TO YOU!

BUT... BUT THE KILLER TRIED TO MURDER *ME*, TOO!

YOU ONLY FAKED THAT ATTEMPT... BY SETTING OFF A ***SMOKE***-BOMB IN YOUR PLANE AND THEN DELIBERATELY BAILING OUT AND LETTING IT CRASH! I FOUND PART OF THAT BOMB AND KNEW THEN!

AND WE FOUND THORN DRUGGED AND TIED UP IN A CLOSET OF YOUR HOME! YOU PLANNED TO TURN HIM LOOSE WHEN YOU'D MURDERED THE OTHER MEMBERS, AND HE'D HAVE NO ALIBI!

I---I HAD TO DO IT! I'D USED THE CLUB FUND FOR GAY PARTIES, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN FOUND OUT! THAT'S WHY I STARTED TO ELIMINATE THE OTHER MEMBERS, BY SETTING A BOOBY-TRAP FUSE TO DETONATE CAREW'S EXPLOSIVES!

WE'LL DISSOLVE THE ***DANGER CLUB***... THE CLUB ITSELF PROVED THE BIGGEST DANGER WE EVER FACED!

THERE'S ALWAYS DANGER WHEN GREEDY MEN BREAK THE LAW... AND FOR SUCH LAW-BREAKERS, THERE'S ALWAYS DOOM!

THE END

10

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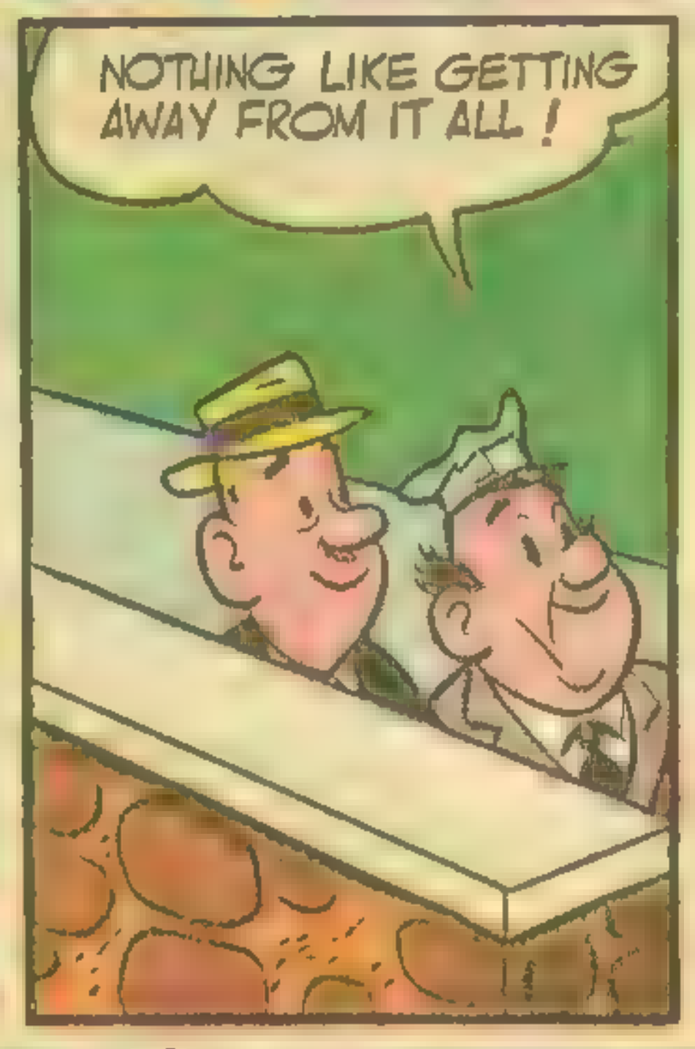
CASEY
THE COP

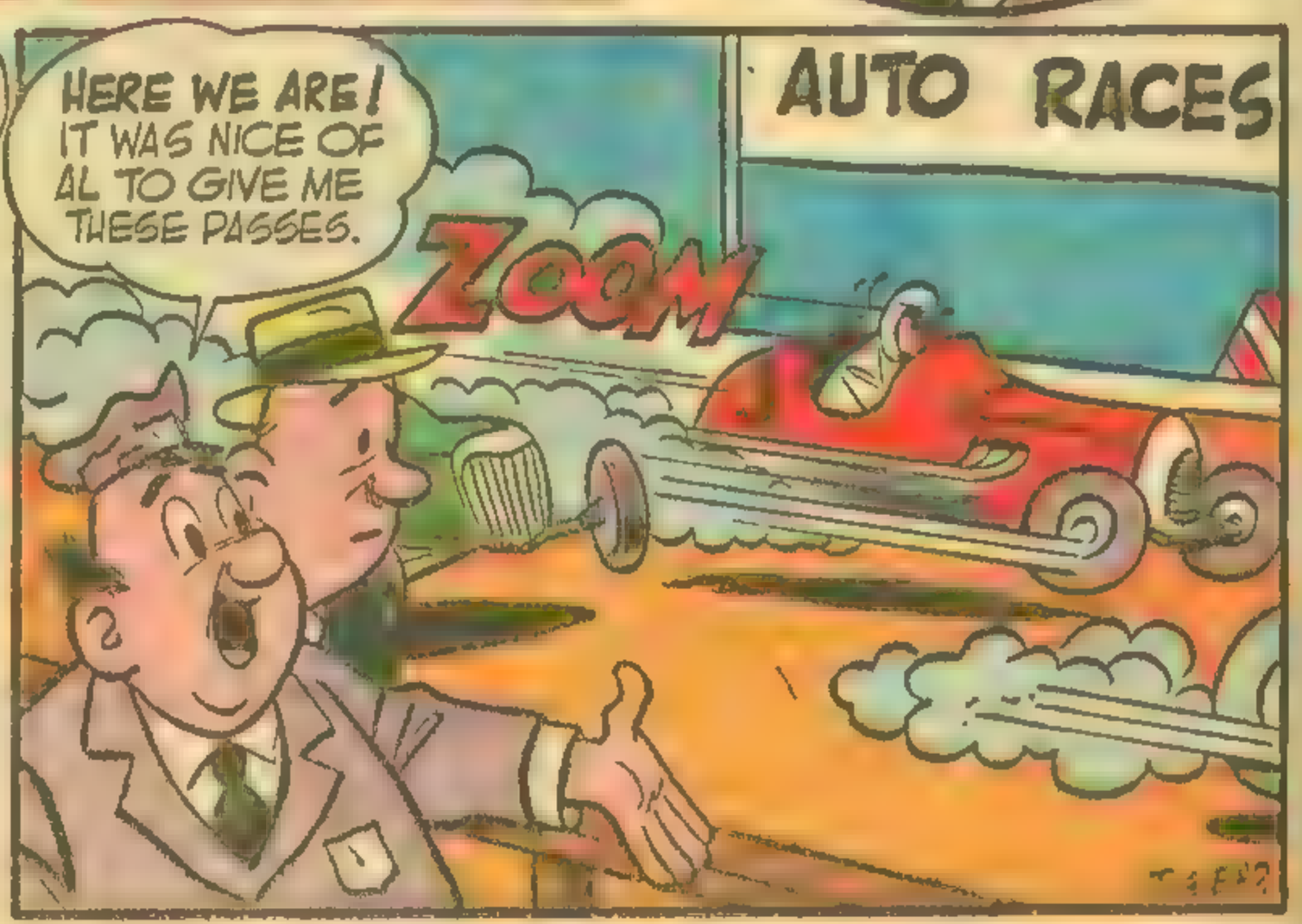
HELLO, BILL. I'VE GOT THE AFTERNOON OFF AND A COUPLE OF FREE PASSES WITH ME. CARE TO JOIN ME?

SURE, CASEY!

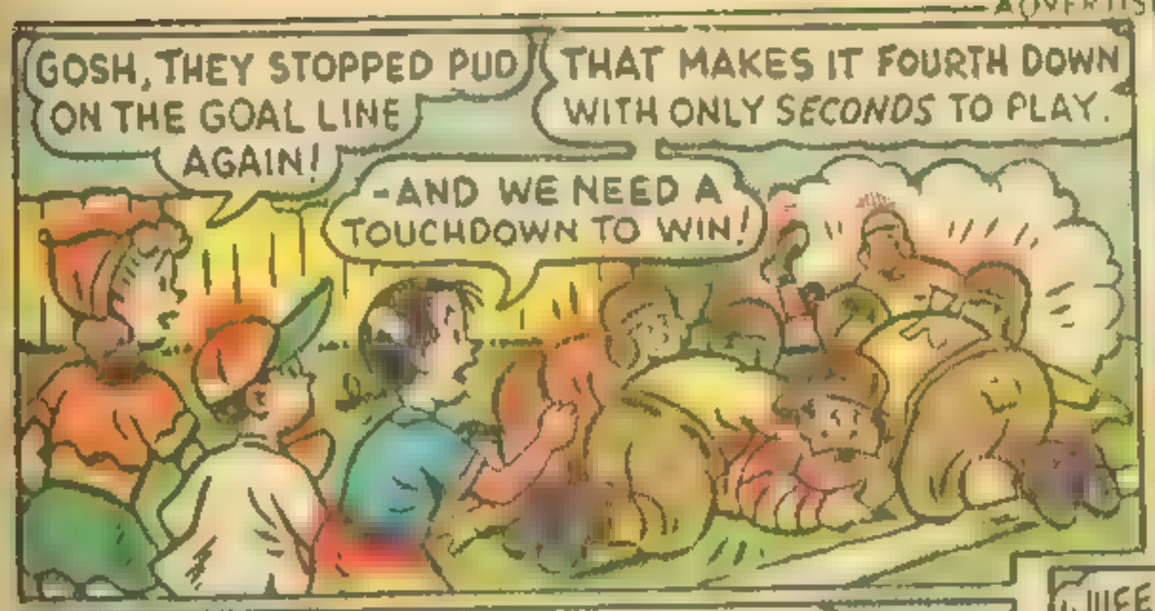

NOTHING LIKE GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL!

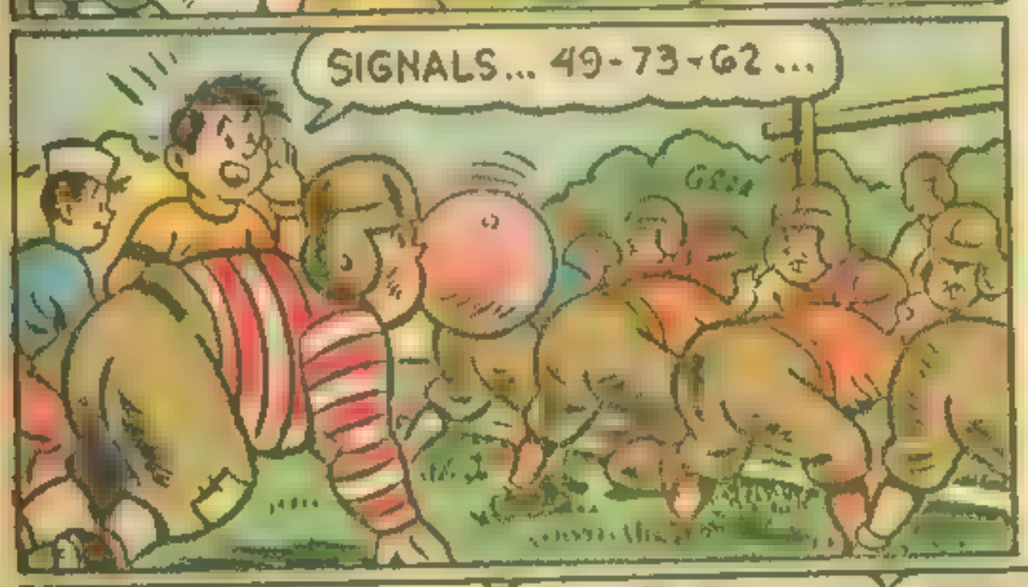
I'M TIRED, WATCHING TRAFFIC ALL DAY LONG!

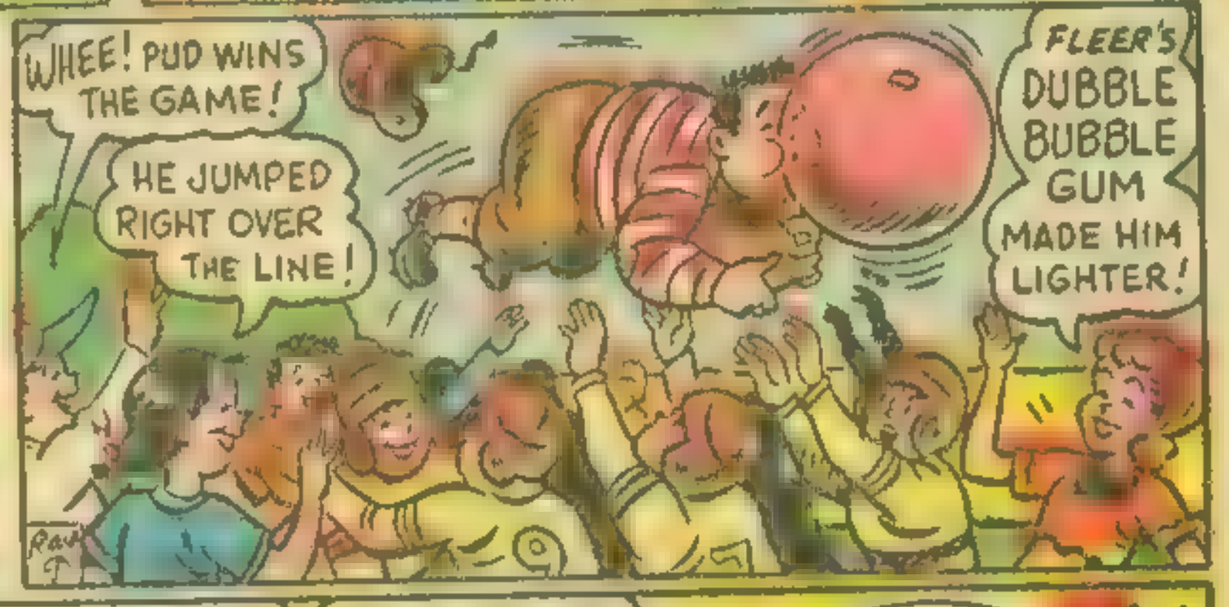
SPEEDING MOTORISTS, PASSING RED LIGHTS--IT'LL BE GOOD TO GET AWAY FROM WORK TODAY.

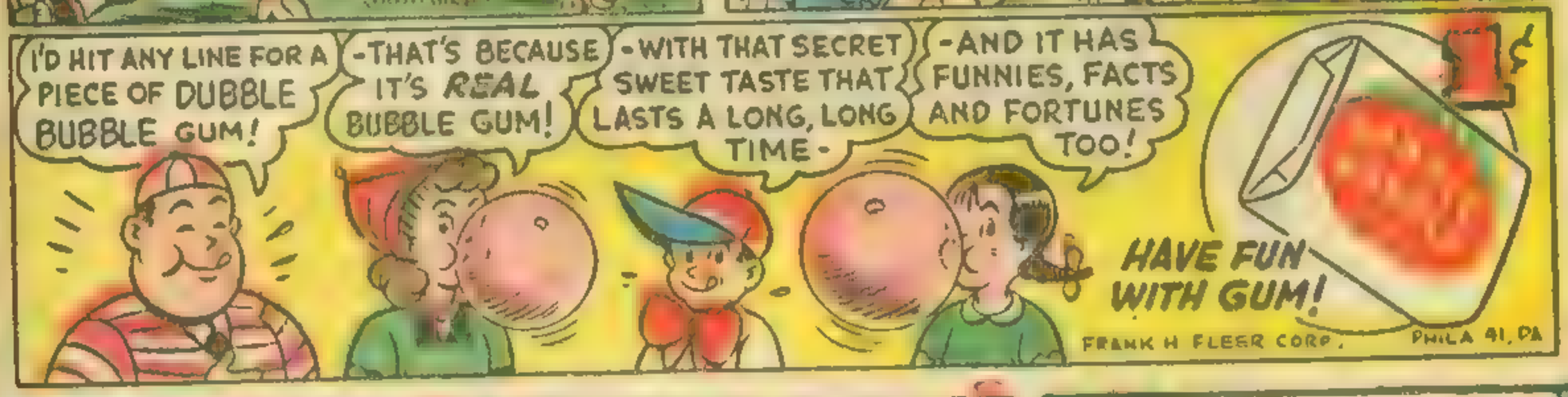

HERE WE ARE! IT WAS NICE OF AL TO GIVE ME THESE PASSES.
AUTO RACES
ZOOM

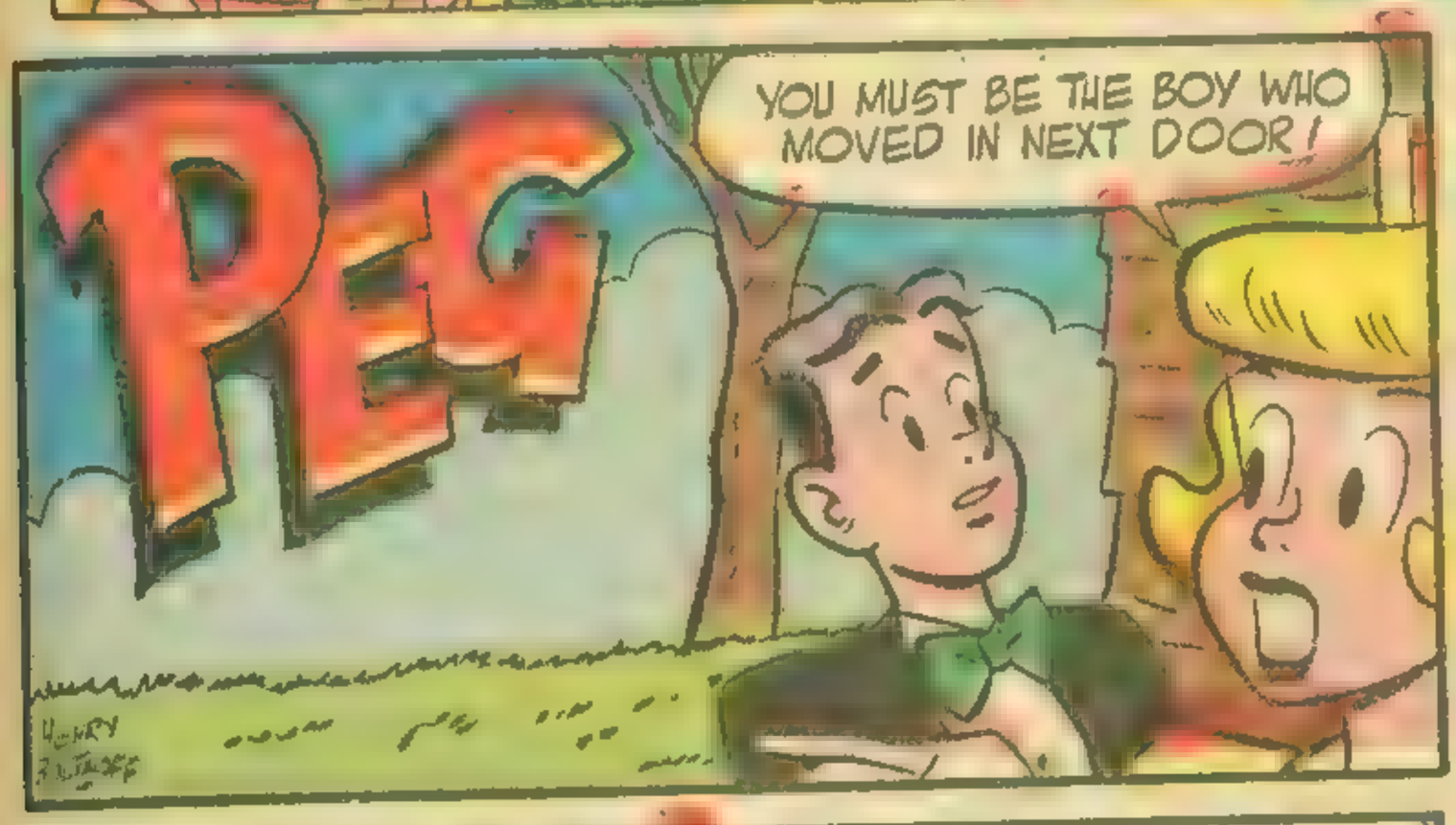
ADVERTISEMENT

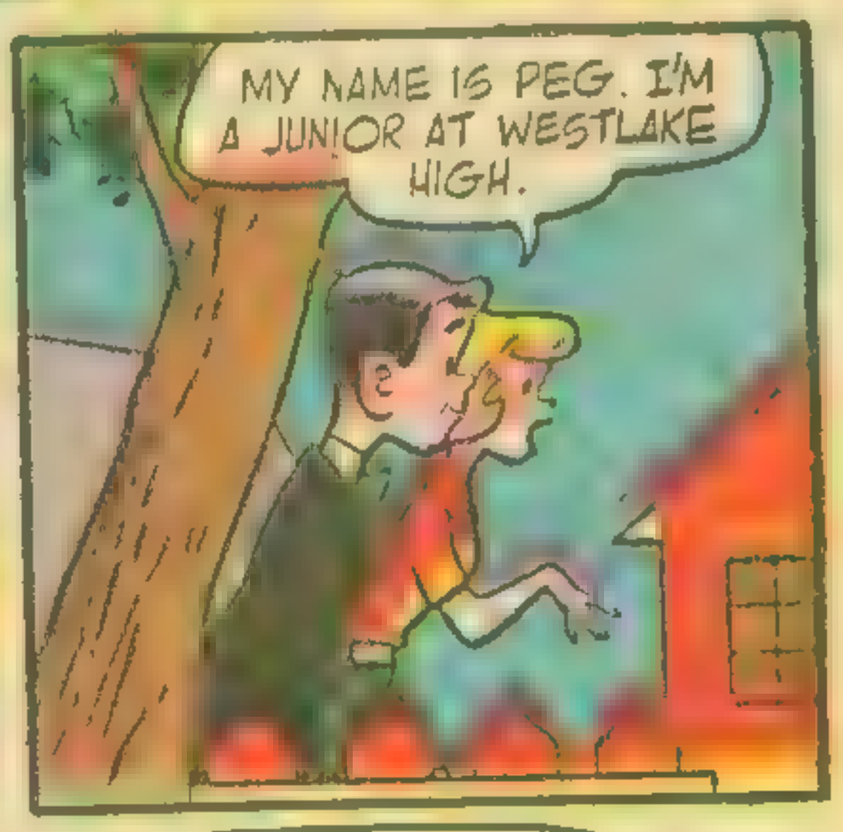

GOSH, THEY STOPPED PUD ON THE GOAL LINE AGAIN!
THAT MAKES IT FOURTH DOWN WITH ONLY SECONDS TO PLAY.
-AND WE NEED A TOUCHDOWN TO WIN!

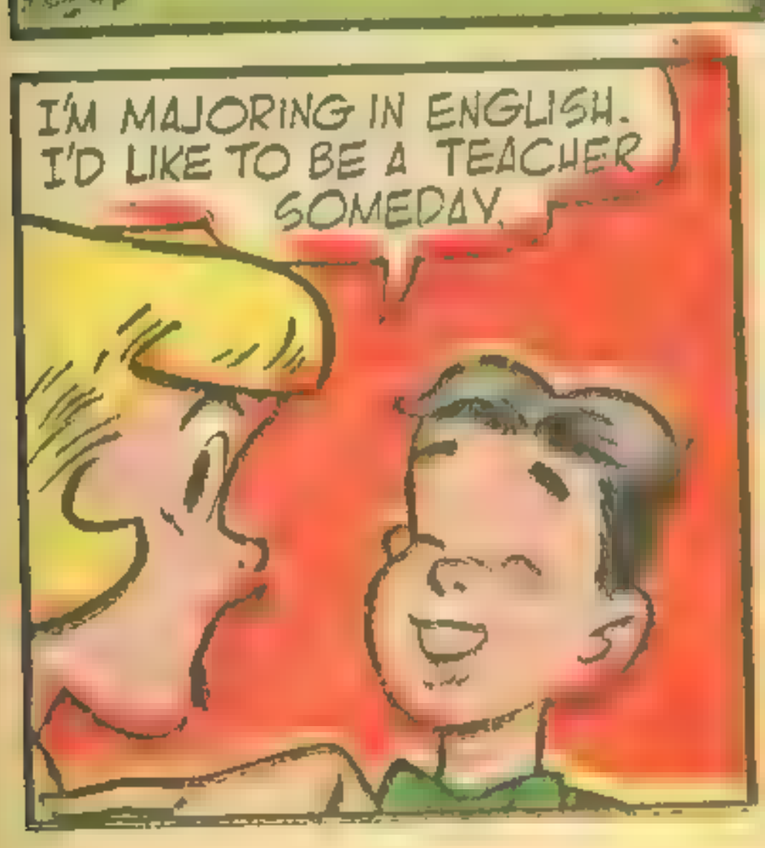


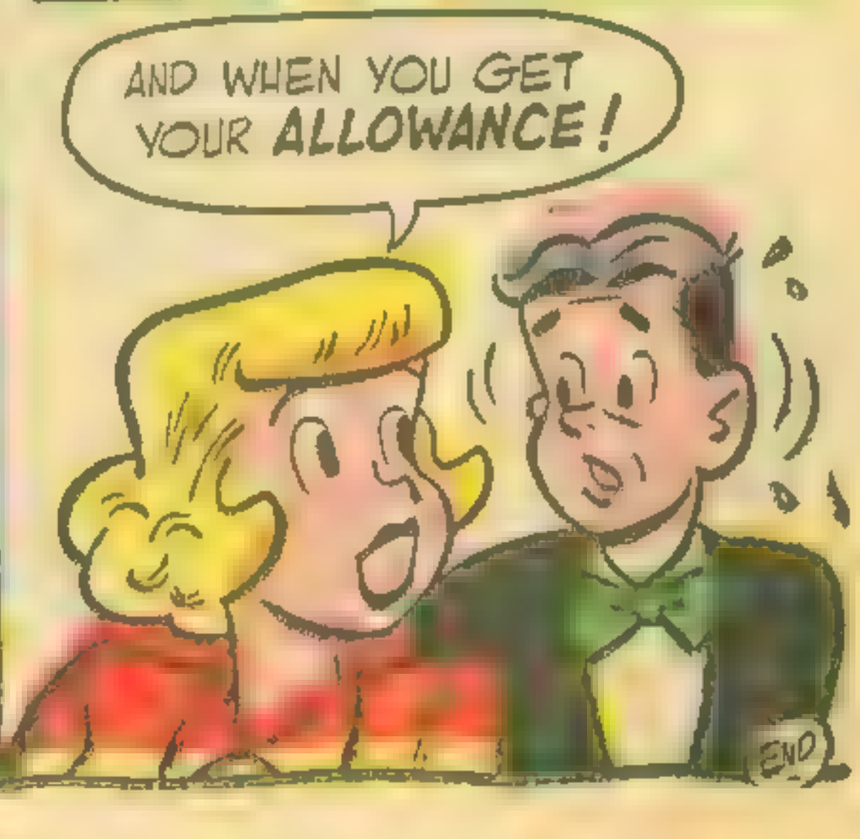



I'D HIT ANY LINE FOR A PIECE OF DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
-THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S REAL BUBBLE GUM!
-WITH THAT SECRET SWEET TASTE THAT LASTS A LONG, LONG TIME-
-AND IT HAS FUNNIES, FACTS AND FORTUNES TOO!
1¢
HAVE FUN WITH GUM!
FRANK H FLEER CORP. PHILA 41, PA









BATMAN With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

IT MEANS A FLOCK OF TROUBLE FOR *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* WHEN THAT POMPOUS LITTLE BIRD-BANDIT, *THE PENGUIN*, GOES INTO ACTION AGAIN! BUT THIS TIME THE CROOK OF 1,000 UMBRELLAS IS BENT ON LEGENDARY LARCENY, SINCE IT'S BIRDS OF *FABLE* HE USES FOR CUNNING CRIME! AND WHEN THE *BASILISK* AND THE *PHOENIX* AND THE *THUNDERBIRD* FLY OUT OF FOLKLORE INTO TODAY, THERE'S NOTHING MYTHICAL ABOUT THE MENACE OF...

"The Penguin's Fabulous Fowls!"

HA, HA! MY LEGENDARY CREATURES ARE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR YOU, *BATMAN!*

BOB KANE

BATMAN

THE RELEASE OF A NOTORIOUS CONVICT BRINGS FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* ON A SPECIAL VISIT TO STATE PRISON...

YES, *THE PENGUIN* IS BEING RELEASED TODAY, AND HE SAYS HE'S REALLY GOING STRAIGHT THIS TIME! HE'S BEEN STUDYING UP SOME PROJECT ABOUT BIRDS!

OH, OH--THAT'S NOT SO GOOD, WARDEN! WHEN THE PENGUIN RIDES HIS BIRD HOBBY, IT'S USUALLY FOR *CRIME!*

BUT THE LITTLE BIRD-BANDIT SEEMS IN EARNEST ABOUT REFORM THIS TIME...

YES, *BATMAN*, I'M THROUGH WITH CRIME! SOON I SHALL ASTOUND THE WORLD IN A LEGAL MANNER! MY VAST KNOWLEDGE OF BIRD LORE CONVINCES ME THAT MANY FABULOUS BIRDS OF THE PAST--THE *PHOENIX*, THE *BASILISK*, AND SO ON REALLY EXISTED!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, PENQUIN!

HMPH! YOU MAY LAUGH, MY FRIEND, BUT I BELIEVE SPECIMENS OF THOSE FABULOUS BIRDS STILL EXIST IN REMOTE PARTS OF THE WORLD--AND I SHALL GO FIND THEM.'

SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME--BUT IF IT KEEPS YOU OUT OF TROUBLE, GO RIGHT AHEAD!

So THE PENGUIN DROPS OUT OF SIGHT, WHILE *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD DICK GRAYSON, GET A WELCOME REST...

...TILL ONE MORNING SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

DO YOU SUPPOSE THE PENGUIN REALLY WENT ON THAT WHACKY QUEST FOR LEGENDARY BIRDS, BRUCE?

I CAN'T SAY, DICK--BUT WHEREVER HE IS, I HOPE HE STAYS THERE!

FLASH! WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM WITH A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN.'

THE PENGUIN HAS JUST ARRIVED AT GOTHAM CITY HARBOR IN A CHARTERED SCHOONER AND HAS PROMISED TO MAKE A SENSATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT.'

I KNEW THIS QUIET WAS TO GOOD TO LAST! GET INTO YOUR COSTUME, DICK... IT'S UP TO *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT LITTLE SCHEMER IS PLANNING NOW!

AND IT'S INDEED A SENSATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GREETS THE TWO LAWMEN WHEN THEY REACH THE DOCK...

YES, GENTLEMEN, I'VE SUCCEEDED IN MY QUEST FOR THE BIRDS OF LEGEND! THE *ROC*, THE *PHOENIX*... I HAVE SPECIMENS OF THEM ALL IN THESE SPECIAL AIR-CONDITIONED CASES!

BUT THOSE BIRDS WERE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYTHICAL! LET'S SEE ONE OF THEM!

BASILISK

PHOENIX

BATMAN

CERTAINLY NOT! I INTEND TO MAKE A FORTUNE EXHIBITING MY LEGENDARY BIRDS, SO I'LL NOT SHOW THEM NOW AND SPOIL MY SHOW! I'M TAKING THEM TO MY NEW COUNTRY-PLACE AVIARY!

AND WHAT'S IN THE CASE MARKED "MYSTERY BIRD"?

MYSTERY BIRD

THAT'S MY STRANGEST LEGENDARY BIRD OF ALL... A BIRD THAT WOULD *DESTROY YOUR CAREER* IF I RELEASED IT, *BATMAN*! BUT I WON'T--FOR I'M A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN NOW!

DESTROY *BATMAN'S* CAREER WITH A BIRD? THAT'S RIDICULOUS...THIS WHOLE BUSINESS SOUNDS LIKE A BIG BLUFF!

BUT THOUGH SKEPTICAL REPORTERS CONSIDER IT A BLUFF, *BATMAN* DOES NOT DISMISS THE PENGUIN SO LIGHTLY...

THIS WEIRD LEGENDARY BIRD MAY COVER UP SOME CRIME HE'S HATCHING! WE'LL GO TAKE A LOOK AT HIS COUNTRY AVIARY TONIGHT, *ROBIN*!

GOOD IDEA, *BATMAN*...I WON'T BELIEVE A THING UNTIL I SEE THOSE CREATURES WITH MY OWN EYES!

BUT THAT NIGHT, AS A STORM BUILDS OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE CAPED CRIME-CRUSHERS FIND THE PENGUIN'S NEST BESET BY *HUMAN* BIRDS OF PREY!

FOR ONCE I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, *BATMAN*! ENRAGED CROOKS HAVE JUST SET LOOSE MY FABULOUS BIRDS, BECAUSE I WAS UNWILLING TO RESUME MY LIFE OF CRIME WITH THEM.'

WHAT--?

THERE THEY GO NOW!

THEY SIDESWIPED THE *BATMOBILE*, TO PREVENT US FROM FOLLOWING.' *ROBIN*, USE THE POWER-HOIST TO PULL IT OUT WHILE I TAKE A LOOK AT THE PENGUIN'S CAGES.'

WHAM! OOM!

:SOB: THEY RELEASED THEM! MY FABULOUS BIRDS ARE GONE--AND THEY'RE DANGEROUS! THE *WINGED LION*, THE GIANT *THUNDERBIRD*, THE HUGE *BASILISK*--THEY'LL ENDANGER ALL GOTHAM CITY!

IF THEY REALLY EXIST!

BUT *BATMAN'S* SKEPTICISM IS DUE FOR A STUNNING SURPRISE ...

..FOR WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE *BATMOBILE*...

BATMAN--IT'S INCREDIBLE! LISTEN TO THAT RADIO-FLASH FROM GOTHAM CITY!

WE REPEAT OUR WARNING...IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, A *WINGED LION* IS FLYING OVER GOTHAM CITY!

IT'S *MY* WINGED LION!

PEDESTRIANS ARE IN PANIC AS THIS STRANGE BIRD-LION WINGS ABOVE OUR STREETS!"

WHY--WHY, IT'S A WINGED LION!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE!

AND AS THE TRIO SPEEDS TOWARD GOTHAM CITY...

YES--AND HURRY! I MUST ROUND UP MY FABULOUS BIRDS BEFORE THEY WREAK TERROR THERE!

THANK GOODNESS THE *MYSTERY BIRD'S* CASE WAS IN THE HOUSE AND WASN'T NOTICED BY THOSE CRIMINALS! ONCE RELEASED, THAT CREATURE COULD BLAST YOUR CAREER, *BATMAN!*

HOW *COULD* A MYTHICAL BIRD DO THAT? IT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!

BULLETIN! THE WINGED LION SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED ON OVER THE CITY, BUT THERE'S A NEW ALARM!

LIGHTNING IS REPORTED STRIKING A STRANGE, GREAT BIRD PERCHED ON THE *BILLINGS BUILDING!*

IT'S MY *THUNDERBIRD!* INDIANS BELIEVED THE BIRD EXISTED, AND COULD DRAW STORM AND LIGHTNING TO ITSELF--AND NOW IT'S DRAWING *DESTRUCTION* HERE!

HOLD TIGHT... I'LL SWING AROUND TO THE *BILLINGS BUILDING!*

BUT AS THE *BATMOBILE* ROARS TO THE SCENE...

TOO LATE! LIGHTNING HAS ALREADY STRUCK, AND--AND THAT HUGE, WEIRD BIRD HAS KNOCKED DOWN THE LIGHTNING ROD!

CRASH!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! WE'VE BEEN INVADED FROM ANOTHER PLANET!

MY *THUNDERBIRD*--I MUST CATCH IT!

MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE DAMAGED BUILDING...

IT FLEW AWAY BEFORE I COULD REACH IT!

THAT LIGHTNING BOLT IT DREW DESTROYED SOME OF MY VALUABLE ART OBJECTS! I CAN'T EVEN FIND THE FRAGMENTS!

HMMM... I WONDER?...

SEARCH THE PENGUIN, *ROBIN!* PERHAPS THOSE VALUABLE OBJECTS WEREN'T DESTROYED BY LIGHTNING AFTER ALL!

THERE'S NOTHING ON HIM, *BATMAN*-- BUT IT'S A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE THAT THE THINGS DISAPPEARED WHILE HE WAS HERE... *TOO* CURIOUS!

AT THAT MOMENT, A NEW ALARM SPURS THE DYNAMIC DUO INTO ACTION...

LOOK--ON THE NEXT BLOCK! THE *GOTHAM CITY BANK* IS ON FIRE!

A FIRE? MY *PHOENIX* LOVES FIRE AND WILL GO THERE! I MUST TRY TO RECAPTURE IT!

WE'LL GO ALONG, TOO! I DON'T TRUST YOU ALONE, PENGUIN--EVEN IN A BURNING BANK! BUT FIRST, WE MUST GET OUR *ASBESTOS SUITS* FROM THE *BAT-MOBILE!*

AND SOON, THREE ASBESTOS-ARMORED FORMS CRASH INTO THE FLAMING BANK...

THERE IT IS-- MY BEAUTIFUL *PHOENIX!* BE VERY CAREFUL, *BATMAN* ... I DON'T WANT IT TO TAKE FRIGHT!

JUMP, *ROBIN*-- THIS WAY!

THAT WALL--IT'S FALLING!

CRASH!!

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

THE PENGUIN *COULD* HAVE PUSHED IT, TO MAKE IT FALL AND DELAY US! COME ON--HE'S BACK BY THE TELLERS' CAGES!

HOLD IT, PENGUIN!

MY *PHOENIX!* YOU ALARMED IT, AND IT FLEW AWAY!

BUT *YOU'RE* NOT GOING TO FLY AWAY TILL WE LOOK INTO THIS!

BATMAN

SHORTLY, OUTSIDE...

YES, A LOT OF CASH WAS LOST IN THE FIRE!

I DIDN'T TAKE IT! YOU SEARCHED ME AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

I DID, PENGUIN, BUT I'M STILL NOT SATISFIED! I'M ARRESTING YOU ON SUSPICION OF ROBBERY!

AWHILE LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

BUT THESE FABULOUS BIRDS HAVE BEEN SEEN BY THE WHOLE CITY, *BATMAN!* THEY'RE REAL!

MAYBE, COMMISSIONER GORDON--BUT UNTIL WE CATCH THEM, I WANT *THIS* BIRD KEPT IN A CAGE!

HA, HA... MY HENCHMEN WILL SEE THAT MY *BASILISK* GETS ME OUT! *BATMAN* WILL LOSE HIS WITS TRYING TO SOLVE THE SECRET OF MY BIRDS!

AFTERWARDS, AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* MAINTAIN A TENSE VIGIL...

EACH TIME THE PENGUIN'S FABULOUS BIRDS WREAKED DESTRUCTION, SOMETHING VALUABLE'S BEEN MISSING! IT COULD BE COINCIDENCE, BUT...

OH, OH... THERE'S SOME SORT OF COMMOTION OVER ON 34TH STREET! LET'S GO, *BATMAN!*

IT'S MORE THAN MERE COMMOTION THAT GREETS THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS AS THEY REACH 34TH STREET...

THAT HORRIBLE MONSTER... ITS EYES ARE FREEZING ME! I CAN'T MOVE!

IT'S THE LEGENDARY *BASILISK*--THE GIANT BIRD WHOSE EYES CAN FREEZE A MAN!

AND AS A HORROR OUT OF ANCIENT TRADITION STALKS THE STREETS, FRANTIC REPORTS REACH HEADQUARTERS...

TERRIBLE BIRD ON 34TH STREET--MANY PEOPLE ALREADY FROZEN BY ITS STARE! OFFICER MANTON TRIED TO FACE IT BUT WAS FROZEN TOO...

IT'S MY ESCAPED *BASILISK!* I CAN CATCH IT--LET ME OUT BEFORE IT STRIKES DOWN MORE PEOPLE!

PENGUIN, IF YOU CAN HANDLE THAT HORRIBLE BIRD, CATCH IT AT ONCE! NO ONE ELSE CAN FACE IT!

I DID WRONG TO BRING MY FABULOUS FOWLS TO GOTHAM CITY--BUT I'LL RECAPTURE THEM, COMMISSIONER!

MEANWHILE, TWO BIRDLIKE HUMAN FIGURES HAVE ALREADY FLASHED DOWN TO BATTLE A BIRD OF DREAD...

BATMAN! THOSE EYES... THOSE AWFUL EYES...

I'M FROZEN.. CAN'T:-MOVE...

ME—ME TOO...

FEARFUL EYES INDEED MEET THE GAZE OF THE TWO CRIME-FIGHTERS!

JUST THEN, AT A NEARBY JEWELRY SHOP...

STOP THIEF! BATMAN, STOP HIM!

JEWELRY

HAT SHOPPE

BATMAN'S FROZEN BY MY BASILISK, I FEAR, AND CAN'T HELP YOU.'

IT'S GETTING ME -- THAT TERRIBLE GAZE...

BUT--BUT THAT MAN *BESIDE* THE BIRD WAS AFFECTED TOO! NOW I UNDERSTAND! *ROBIN*--YOUR UTILITY BELT--DO AS I'M DOING!

HE USED IT TO KNOCK OUT THAT BUS DRIVER-- AND THE BUS IS RUNNING WILD! QUICK, *ROBIN*-- THE *BATMOBILE*!

WRONG, PENGUIN! WHEN A MAN *ALONGSIDE* THE *BASILISK* WAS FROZEN, I REALIZED IT WAS NOT THE BIRD'S STARE BUT DEADLY GAS IT EXHALED THAT DID THE FREEZING! SO *ROBIN* AND I SIMPLY USED *NOSE-PLUGS* FROM OUR UTILITY BELTS TO PROTECT US!

BUT MY *BASILISK* ISN'T THROUGH YET.'

IT CAN STILL BE DEADLY, YOU SEE!'

42 AVE

BUS STOP

BATMAN

SECONDS LATER...

FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE, *BATMAN*, I'LL RELEASE MY *MYSTERY BIRD*, WHICH WILL RUIN YOUR CAREER!

CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW, PENGUIN ...THAT RUN-AWAY BUS IS MORE IMPORTANT!

I CAN STOP THE BUS NOW, *BATMAN*, BUT I'M AFRAID THE PENGUIN FLEW THE COOP!

EVEN IN MID-AIR, YOU *WOULD* MAKE PUNS!

ACME TRANSIT CO. 943

NEXT MORNING, IN A SECRET WAREHOUSE BASE, AN ANGRY PENGUIN PREPARES TO LOOSE HIS MOST FABULOUS BIRD...

MY *MYSTERY BIRD* WILL TURN THE WHOLE CITY *AGAINST BATMAN!* THEN WE'LL USE THE *ROC* FOR OUR STADIUM RAID, AND GET OUT OF TOWN!

ROC

MYSTERY BIRD

WE SURE FOOLED HIM WHEN WE PRE-TENDED TO RELEASE ALL YOUR OTHER BIRDS! WHAT A GAG!

A LITTLE LATER...

LOOK--THERE'S *BATMAN!* HE MUST BE SWINGING DOWN ON HIS ROPE!

GEE--HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S *FLYING!*

WAIT A MINUTE-- HE *IS* FLYING! THAT'S NOT *BATMAN*... IT'S SOME SORT OF BATLIKE CREATURE... A *MAN-BAT!*

IT'S GHASTLY! RUN!

WHILE IN THE SECRET *BAT-CAVE* BENEATH THE WAYNE MANSION...

ROBIN, YOU TAKE THE *BAT-PLANE* AND PATROL THE SKY FOR THE PENGUIN'S BIRDS... I'LL USE THE *BATMOBILE* ON THE GROUND, AND CALL YOU BY BELT-RADIO IF I NEED YOU!

GOOD IDEA, *BATMAN!*

BUT *BATMAN*, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SOON FINDS THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM CITY FLEEING FROM HIM IN TERROR!

RUN! IT'S THAT AWFUL *MAN-BAT!* GET AWAY!

MAN-BAT? SO THAT'S THE MYSTERY BIRD THE PENGUIN THREATENED ME WITH? IT *COULD* DESTROY MY CAREER, BY MAKING PEOPLE AFRAID OF ME WHEREVER I APPEAR!

AT THAT INSTANT, FROM HIGH IN THE SKY, COMES A TENSE CALL BY BELT-RADIO...

BATMAN, THERE'S A WEIRD MAN-LIKE BIRD FLYING OVER 9TH AVENUE!

I'LL STOP THAT *MAN-BAT!* YOU SWOOP DOWN AND LAND ON THE TERMINAL ROOF!

IMMEDIATELY, *BATMAN* RACES TO THE TOP OF A TALL SKYSCRAPER, AND...

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS THING IS BY FORCING IT DOWN TO THE GROUND!

AND BY THE TIME *ROBIN* JOINS HIM...

SO THAT'S THE ANSWER, A *MECHANICAL*, MONSTROUS MAN-BAT!

RIGHT... *ALL* THE PENGUIN'S BIRDS ARE MECHANICAL FAKES--THE "THUNDERBIRD" THAT DREW LIGHTNING AND CARRIED AWAY THE ART-LOOT, THE "PHOENIX" WHICH FLEW AWAY WITH THE BANK-CASH, AND THE "BASILISK" THAT PRODUCED KNOCKOUT GAS!

INSTEAD OF BEING AWAY HUNTING FABULOUS BIRDS, HE WAS BUILDING THOSE FAKES! I KNEW THIS BECAUSE WHEN A *REAL* BIRD IS RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY, IT ALWAYS FLIES HOME... BUT THESE "BIRDS" WENT STRAIGHT TO THE CITY AND BEGAN WRECKING HAVOC!

SUDDENLY...

LOOK! THAT COLOSSAL BIRD SCREAMING OVERHEAD! IT MUST BE...

SCREECH!

THE PENGUIN'S FAKE *ROC*! QUICK: BACK TO THE *BAT-PLANE!*

NEXT MINUTE, OVER GOTHAM FOOTBALL STADIUM...

THAT MONSTER BIRD--IT'S SWOOPING DOWN ON US!

SCREEEECH!

WATCH OUT!

HA, HA... THEY CAN'T SEE THE HELICOPTER BLADES FROM BENEATH, AND THE SIREN-SCREECHES DROWN OUT OUR MOTOR NOISE! IN THIS PANIC, WE CAN LAND AND GRAB ALL THE BOX-OFFICE RECEIPTS!

NO, PENGUIN--LOOK ABOVE US! THE *BAT-PLANE!*

ROBIN, DROP THIS METAL MOORING-LINE IN THEIR PROPELLOR AS WE GO OVER THEM!

HURRAY! THE *BAT-PLANE* ... IT'S DIVING ON THE *ROC!*

PENGUIN! WE'RE GOING DOWN! IN THE STADIUM, WE CAN'T GET AWAY!

IT'S THAT DRATTED *BATMAN!* I THOUGHT MY MAN-BAT GAG WOULD KEEP HIM TOO BUSY TO INTERFERE!

AND SO, AFTER A SWIFT ROUNDUP...

POOR PENGUIN... THIS LATEST SCHEME OF HIS REALLY LAID AN EGG, DIDN'T IT?

OH-H... BAD ENOUGH, I'M GOING BACK TO JAIL... DO I HAVE TO LISTEN TO THAT BRAT'S HORRIBLE PUNS, TOO?

THE END

VARSITY VIC

WOW!

WHAT A DOLL!

HENRY BOLTHOFF

I'LL TAG ALONG AFTER HER, MAYBE I CAN MEET HER!

SODA

ICE CREAM

THEATRE

NOW PLAYING

?

SNACK BAR

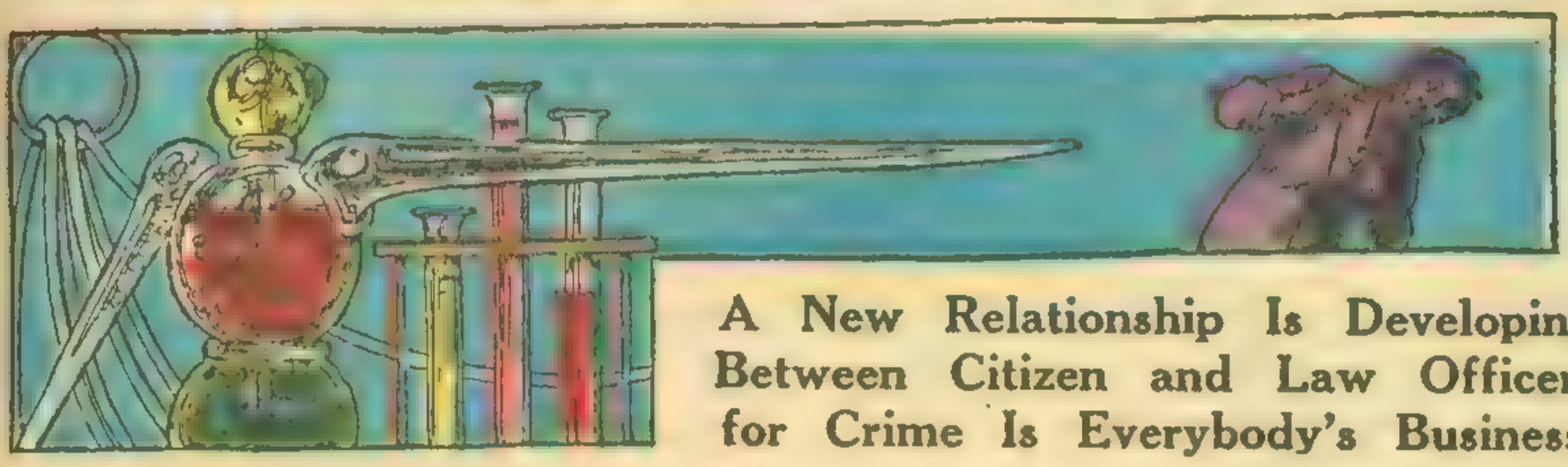
HAMBURGS 25¢

?

OW-SHE'S NOT FOR ME!

THE END

160,000,000 POLICEMEN



A New Relationship Is Developing Between Citizen and Law Officer, for Crime Is Everybody's Business

A man stops in front of a local national bank to light a cigarette. As he flips the match into the road, he notices a big black sedan pull up at the curb. Three men get out, leaving a fourth at the wheel. The three men swiftly enter the bank.

The smoker has scanned the faces of the three men as they passed by him on their way into the bank, but he didn't recognize any one of them. Still, they might be respectable business men in town. He doesn't know everyone.

But he decides to take no chances, and signals a passing police squad car. If no squad car happened to be passing at the time, he would have stepped into the cigar store and called police headquarters.

The policemen didn't waste time questioning the smoker. They stepped into the bank at the very moment the three thugs were walking out with an estimated $100,000 in currency stuffed into a large shopping bag.

Once again, an aleft citizen, responding to a long and successful police department campaign to make the public more crime-conscious, has nipped a hold-up in the bud.

The above scene took place in Milwaukee, a community of 633,000, where every citizen is made to feel that the protection of the city is *HIS* business as well as the policeman's on the corner. This trend is swiftly spreading to many other cities in America, and a fine relationship is developing between citizen and policeman as a result.

As the Milwaukee Police Department can tell you, however, this sort of relationship cannot be achieved by the simple method of passing a law. Both police and citizens must mal some radical changes in old-fashioned behavio. patterns.

For example, imagine yourself exceeding the 20-mile speed limit in a residential zone. A motorcycle policeman signals you to pull over to the curb. You do, and steel yourself against the usual, "Where do you think you're going —to a fire?"

Instead, the policeman politely speaks to you about the dangers involved in your act. He points out what might happen if a little boy suddenly darted out in front of your car, and you were going too fast to stop in time.

"You don't look like the kind of man who'd ever forget a thing like that," the policeman concludes. Then, he hands you a ticket, gives you explicit directions as to where the fine can be paid, tips his cap and gets back on his motorcycle.

That's how Milwaukee policemen hand out tickets, and motorists appreciate it. In return, the average citizen, looking upon the patrolman as a friend, keeps his eyes and ears open for signs of crime. He knows that no policeman, upon hearing his complaint of a suspicious act, will ever say to him:

"Look, brother, you take care of *YOUR* business, and I'll take care of *MINE!*" In Milwaukee, crime is everyone's business, and public complaints are treated with the utmost courtesy by the Department.

As we mentioned above, this tendency and attitude are spreading and growing. Take the case of the Crime Detection Laboratory of New Jersey. Sounds like the name of an official gang-busting unit, doesn't it? It isn't.

The Laboratory is composed of a group of professional men, living in and about Elizabeth, who meet every Friday night to solve criminal cases.

If you ask any of them about it, they'll modestly tell you that crime-fighting is only their hobby. Actually, it's much more than that. The men of the Lab, while enjoying themselves immensely as they "track down" an imaginary murder, are aware of the new thinking existing between the police and the average citizens. They're against hoods, and want to do their bit in helping the police put them behind bars.

At the same time, the Lab men are wise enough to know that their activities must be done with the full knowledge and, if possible, the aid of the Police Department. In this respect, the Laboratory has not only been aided by the law, but has reached a stage of development where it has been able to place its facilities at the service of the police.

Since its inception, back in 1937, the Crime Lab has handled more than 750 actual cases, ranging from murder to arson, and County Prosecutors are full of praise for the help given.

Recently, a case arose that indicated the Crime Lab had come of age. This was when the medical examiner of Union County, following a post-mortem examination of a man who had died mysteriously, came up with a large plastic baseball which he found lodged in the dead man's stomach.

The medical examiner was clearly stumped. The plastic baseball was much too large to have been swallowed. Nor was it a normal growth of any kind. Then how had it gotten into the victim's stomach?

At the end of his wits, he wrapped the ball up and took it down the street to the Crime Lab. "Boys, solve this one, and I'll know you're good," he said.

The plastic ball was given every known test, until, sometime later, the medical examiner was summoned to the Crime Lab. He lost no time in getting there. That plastic ball was beginning to give him the willies, and he'd begun waking up in the middle of the night, asking himself the same burning question: "It was too big to be swallowed! How'd it get in his stomach?"

Arriving at the Crime Lab, he could hardly contain himself. "Well? Did you find out what it is? And how it got into his stomach?"

The Crime Lab's chemist smiled. "When I answer the first question—you'll have your answer to the second question!" he said.

"Go on!"

"And I'll tell you what it is by making another one identical to it." Whereupon, the chemist took a test tube, heated it to body temperature, poured some formaldehyde into it, added ordinary milk, a drop or two of natural stomach acids, and soon presented the startled medical examiner with an exact replica of the plastic baseball!

Further interrogation revealed that the victim had mistakenly swallowed some formaldehyde, and instantly taken a sip of milk in the hope it might serve as an antidote. The poison and the milk, however, combine to form a basic formula for certain plastics of the casein-formaldehyde type.

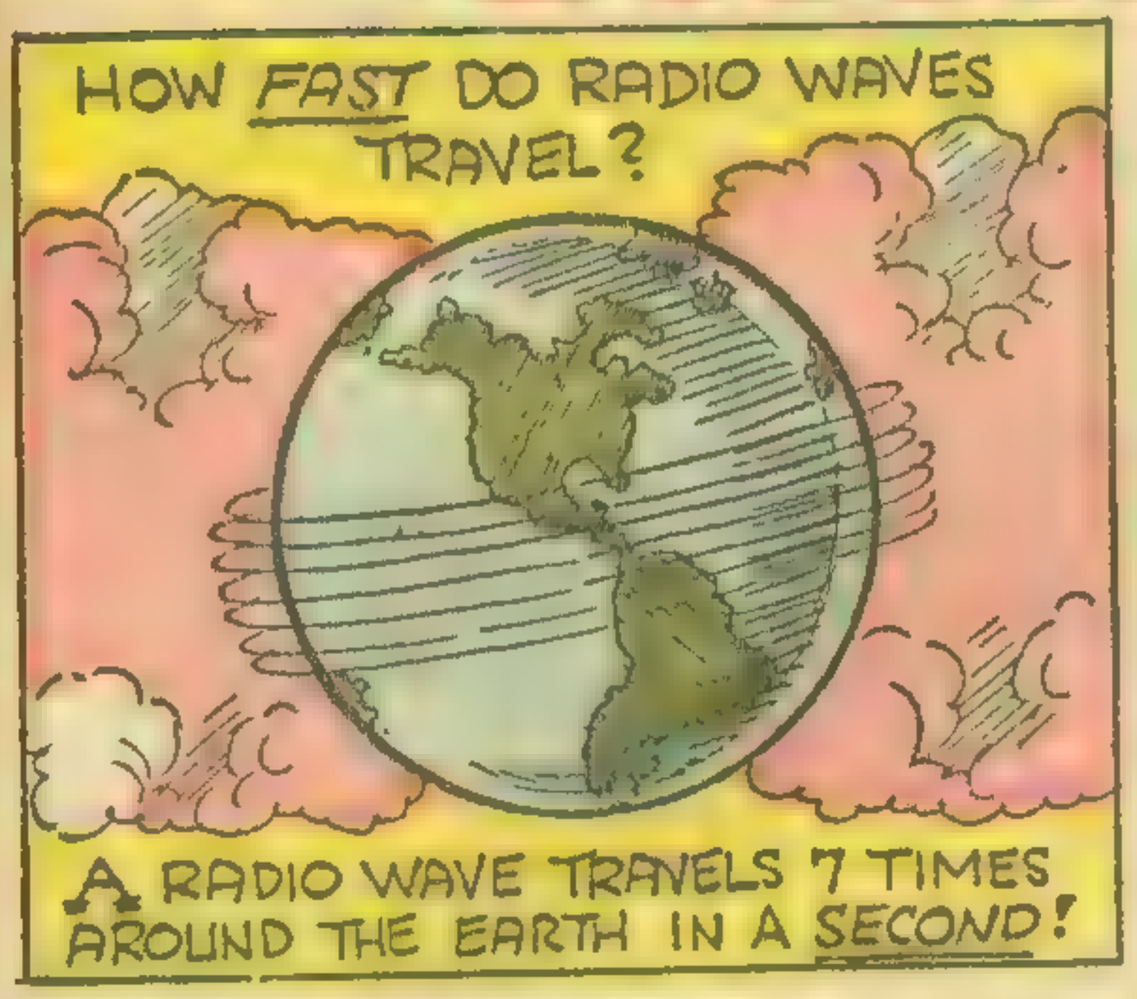
This is only one example of the many in which the Crime Lab has helped local police, and other groups in other cities are considering similar projects of their own.

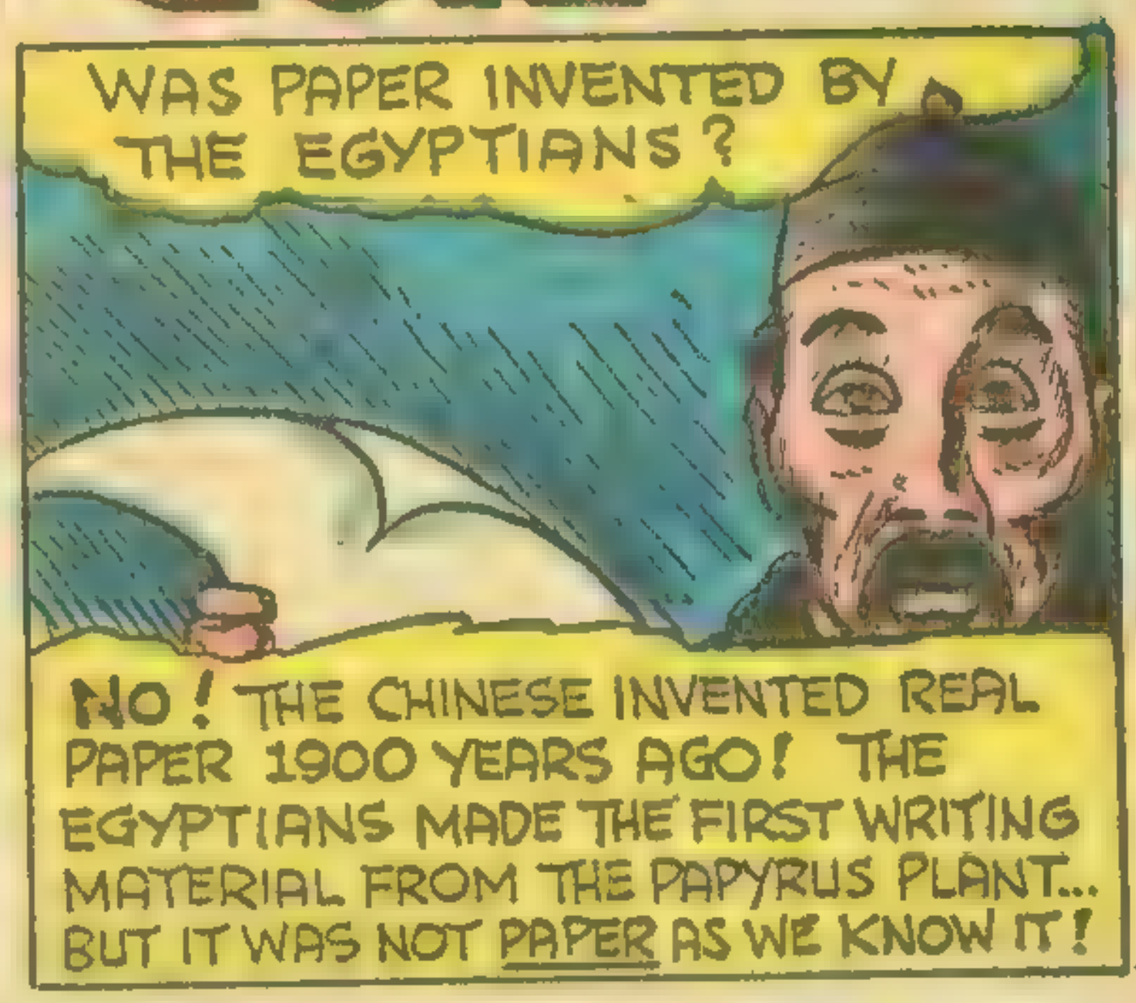
If you would care to start a similar project in your own home town, you can count on the help of none other than FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, himself. After studying the work of the Crime Lab, Hoover wrote:

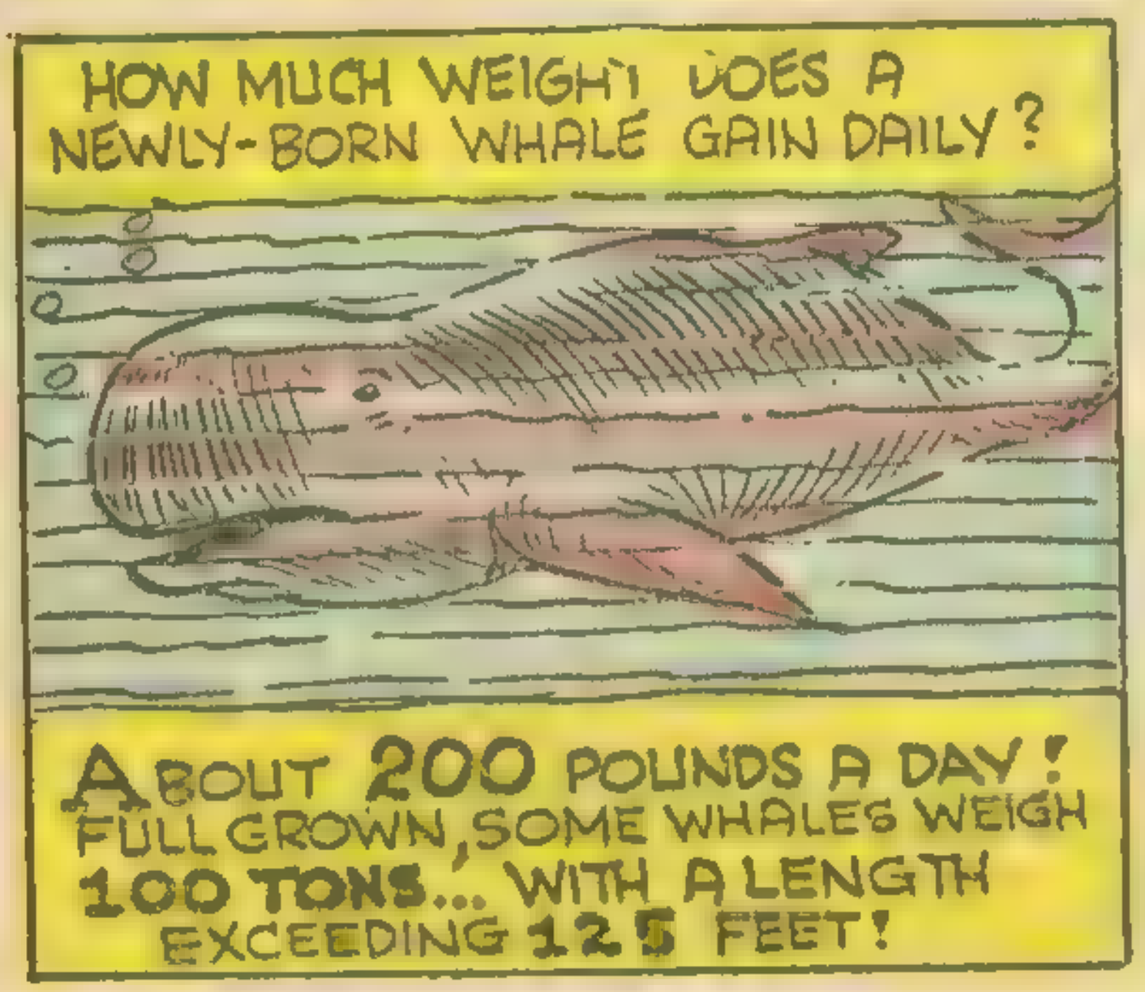
"The project . . . has blazed a trail of immeasurable benefit to the law-enforcement profession. Your work could well be emulated by other communities, and any help which the FBI can render toward encouraging such a movement will be given with pleasure and enthusiasm."

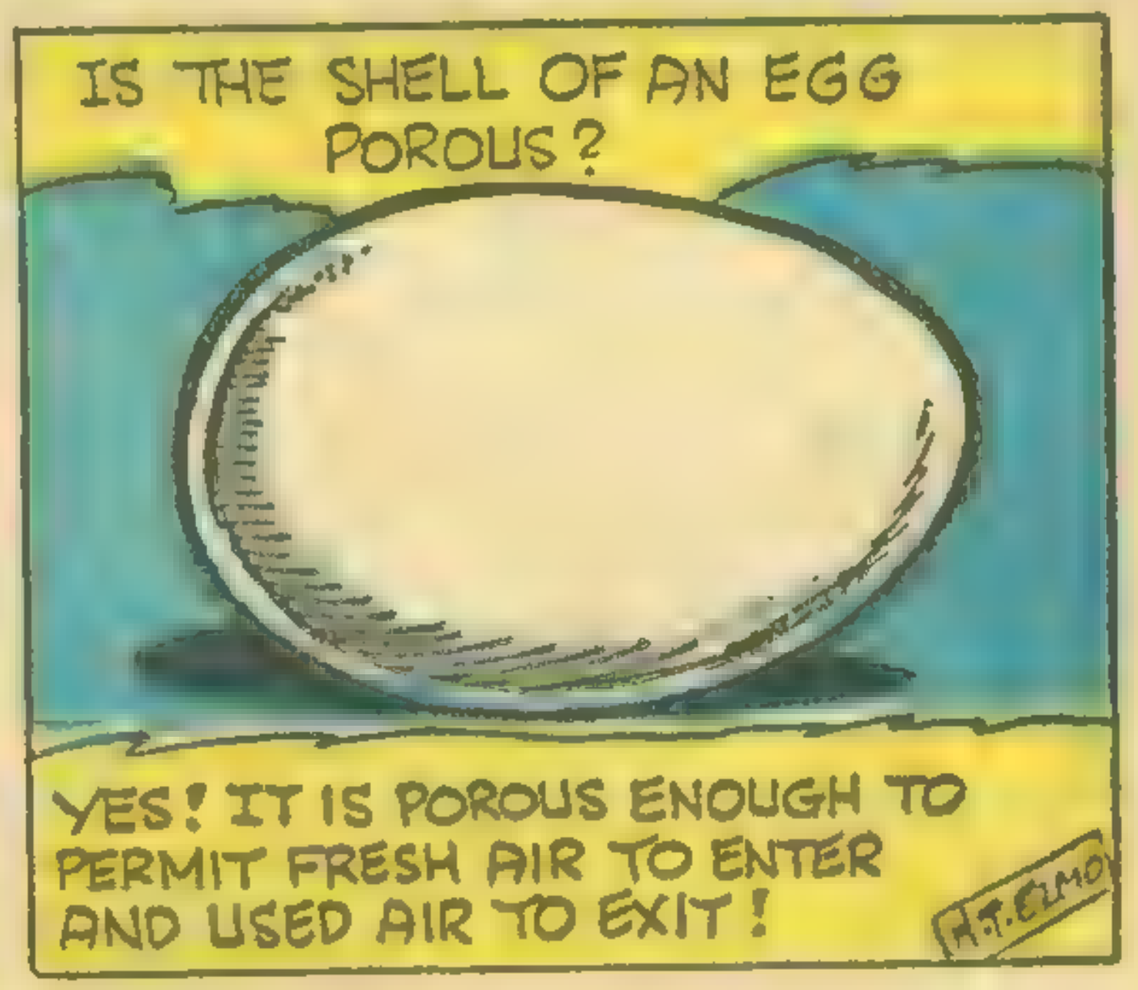
—by Jack E. Miller

QUICK QUIZ




WAS PAPER INVENTED BY THE EGYPTIANS?
NO! THE CHINESE INVENTED REAL PAPER 1900 YEARS AGO! THE EGYPTIANS MADE THE FIRST WRITING MATERIAL FROM THE PAPYRUS PLANT... BUT IT WAS NOT PAPER AS WE KNOW IT!


HOW MUCH WEIGHT DOES A NEWLY-BORN WHALE GAIN DAILY?
ABOUT 200 POUNDS A DAY! FULL GROWN, SOME WHALES WEIGH 100 TONS... WITH A LENGTH EXCEEDING 125 FEET!



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SUPERMAN says: "PEOPLE are PEOPLE!"

GREAT SCOTT! A CIRCUS LION ON THE LOOSE!

NICE WORK, LAD! I'LL HAVE HIM BACK IN HIS CAGE IN A JIFFY!

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, SUPERMAN! A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN DANGER IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG!

YOU'D BETTER THANK A YOUNG BOY OVER THERE, WHOSE QUICK THINKING AND COURAGE KEPT THIS LION AT BAY BEFORE HE COULD RUN WILD!

IT WAS ONE OF THESE TWO BOYS, MR. CARSON!

MY BOY, I WANT TO REWARD YOU--

WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WASN'T THE *OTHER* LAD?

WHY--ER, WHY--ER...

BECAUSE OF HIS COLOR? AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE *WAS* THE ONE! YOU JUST JUMPED TO A CONCLUSION BECAUSE OF A COMMON PREJUDICE!

I'M SORRY, SUPERMAN! YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT!

YOUNG MAN, THIS SHOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO HAVE GOTTEN SOME WRONG NOTIONS IN THEIR HEADS!

MOSTLY BECAUSE THEY'VE FORGOTTEN AN ELEMENTARY TRUTH: THAT PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE, AND SHOULD BE JUDGED AS SUCH, REGARDLESS OF COLOR OR BELIEFS!

BROTHERHOOD WEEK IS BEING OBSERVED FEBRUARY 15-22... BUT THE IDEAS BEHIND IT SHOULD BE OBSERVED ALL YEAR.

THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH LEADING NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

BATMAN with ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

BUT I THOUGHT BATMAN NEVER USES A GUN!

HE MUST BE MAD! HE'S BECOME A KILLER!

HA! IF THEY ONLY KNEW THE TRUTH...THAT I'M IMPERSONATING THE REAL BATMAN!

IN HIS TIME, BATMAN HAS FACED MANY DANGEROUS MEN... MOBSTERS, THIEVES, THE GAMUT OF THE ROGUES GALLERY. BUT NOW BATMAN IS UP AGAINST AN ADVERSARY THAT MAKES THE OTHERS PALE BY COMPARISON! A PROFESSIONAL KILLER...COLD-BLOODED, RUTHLESS, EFFICIENT! A MAN WELL-VERSED IN THE ART OF MURDER! A MAN WHOSE LIFE WAS DEVOTED TO NOTHING ELSE! THIS IS THE MAN WHO TAKES BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER ON THE MOST TERRIFYING ADVENTURE OF THEIR LIVES, WHEN THEY TRY TO STOP...

The MAN of 100 MURDERS

BOB KANE

BATMAN

DARK NIGHT... AND MISTS. A FUGITIVE FROM THE LAW DESPERATELY SEEKS ESCAPE! HIS NAME? **BRUCE WAYNE!**

THEY'RE ON MY HEELS! I'VE GOT TO SHAKE THEM! THE POLICE HAVE ORDERS TO SHOOT TO KILL!

THERE HE GOES ... BEHIND THOSE **ROCKS!**

C'MON, MEN! HE **MUSTN'T ESCAPE US!**

ROBIN... AND THE POLICE... HUNTING FAMED SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE! HOW COULD THIS FANTASTIC SITUATION COME TO BE? FOR THE ANSWER, LET US TURN BACK THE CLOCK A FEW DAYS...

...TO HOLLYWOOD, WHERE OUTSIDE A RESTAURANT, A CROWD GATHERS TO WATCH A FAMOUS RITUAL... AND IS TREATED TO A SURPRISE!

LOOK! HE'S NOT PUTTING HIS **FOOTPRINTS** IN THE CEMENT LIKE THE OTHER STARS! HE'S PUTTING IN THE PRINT OF A **GUN!**

AND WHY NOT! THAT'S HIS **TRADE-MARK!** HE'S **FERRIS HEDRANT**... THE SCREEN'S **PERFECT KILLER!**

"THE MAN OF 100 MURDERS"! THAT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT! HE'S KILLED 100 PEOPLE, IN HIS ROLES ON THE SCREEN!

PERFECT CASTING! THERE'S SOMETHING SCARY ABOUT HIM, ALL RIGHT! NO WONDER HE ALWAYS PLAYS THE VILLAIN!

AND AS ACTOR FERRIS HEDRANT SLOWLY WALKS TOWARD HIS STUDIO...

THERE'S FERRIS HEDRANT NOW! OH, MR. HEDRANT... PLEASE SIGN MY BOOK! I'VE SEEN **ALL** YOUR PICTURES... YOU SCARE ME **SILLY!**

CERTAINLY, MY DEAR... IT'S A PLEASURE!

FERRIS HEDRANT in ...MILING KILLE

GOLLY! REMEMBER HIM IN "NIGHT OF EVIL"? HE KILLED A WHOLE FAMILY FOR TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS!

AND WHAT ABOUT "TWO GRAVES NORTH"? HE KILLED HIS BRIDE ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHT! THERE NEVER WAS A SCREEN MENACE LIKE **FERRIS HEDRANT!**

...OMING THURS-

MEANWHILE, IN THE OFFICES OF ALFRED M. DOLE, PRESIDENT OF TRIUMPHANT PICTURES...

THEN IT'S A DEAL, BATMAN! YOU'LL ACT AS TECHNICAL ADVISER ON OUR NEW CRIME FILM, "BULLETPROOF"!

I'LL BE GLAD TO, MR. DOLE! AND I ASK THAT THE FEE YOU MENTIONED BE TURNED OVER TO A DESERVING LOCAL CHARITY!

THEN, AS THE FAMOUS LAWMEN DEPART...

YOU MAY GO IN NOW, MR. HEDRANT!

(WHISPER) LOOK, BATMAN! THAT'S FERRIS HEDRANT... THE MAN WHO ALWAYS KILLS ON THE SCREEN!

AND, MOMENTS LATER...

HEDRANT, I'LL MAKE IT BRIEF! YOU WON'T BE IN "BULLETPROOF"! WE'RE NOT PICKING UP YOUR OPTION!

YOU MEAN... I'M FIRED? ME... FERRIS HEDRANT? BUT YOU MUST BE MAD! I'M A BIG STAR! EVERYBODY KNOWS ME!

THAT'S THE TROUBLE... YOU'VE BECOME TOO FAMILIAR! YOU'VE BEEN TYPE-CAST TOO MUCH... YOUR LAST TWO PICTURES SLIPPED AT THE BOX-OFFICE. THE KILLER IN "BULLETPROOF" MUST BE SPECIAL... VERY SPECIAL! I'M SORRY, HEDRANT!

THAT NIGHT, IN HIS HOME, THE HIGH-STRUNG ACTOR PACES ANGRILY PAST THE MEMENTOES OF HIS LONG SCREEN CAREER...

SO I'M NOT SPECIAL ENOUGH FOR THEM! I'M TOO FAMILIAR! THEY NEED NEW FACES! BAH! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

THE ANGER MOUNTS... THE TENSION HEIGHTENS! AND THEN IT HAPPENS! A DELICATE NERVOUS SYSTEM SUDDENLY SNAPS... AS HEDRANT GOES OUT OF HIS MIND...

KILLER! KILLER! THAT'S ME! ME! I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL SHOW THEM ALL HOW TO KILL!

NEXT EVENING, ON THE DARKENED CAMPUS OF A NEARBY UNIVERSITY...

SO I'M NOT ANY GOOD AS A KILLER, EH? HA! I'LL SHOW THE **WORLD** HOW CLEVER A MURDERER I AM. I'LL RE-ENACT THE KILLINGS I PERFORMED IN MY PICTURES... BUT WITH **REAL** VICTIMS THIS TIME!

AND IN THE BIOLOGY LABORATORY, AS THE NIGHT WATCHMAN SEEKS TO INVESTIGATE A NOISE...

SO LONG, BURNS...YOU CHUMP!

BUT MY NAME ISN'T BURNS! IT'S A MISTAKE! OHHHHH...

LATER, AS THE CRAZED ACTOR STALKS ANOTHER UNSUSPECTING VICTIM, REPEATING ANOTHER OF HIS CINEMA CRIMES...

BUT YOU'RE **CRAZY!** YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!

THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY! HA, HA! WAIT TILL THE PEOPLE GET A LOOK AT THIS WINDOW IN THE MORNING...THERE'LL BE AN **EXTRA** MANNEQUIN!

SUN SHOP SPECIALS 4th FLOOR

AND NEXT MORNING, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RELAX IN THEIR HOTEL ROOM IN THEIR EVERYDAY ROLES AS **BRUCE WAYNE** AND HIS WARD, **DICK GRAYSON**...

HURRY AND FINISH DRESSING, DICK! LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE NEEDED BY THE LOCAL POLICE!

MURDER IN A BIOLOGY LAB... MURDER IN A DEPARTMENT STORE WINDOW! I FEEL I'VE SEEN ALL THIS BEFORE.. BUT WHERE?

FIND MURDERS STUN CITY

THEN...

I KNOW! THE **MOVIES!** AND THEY WERE **FERRIS HEDRANT** PICTURES! HE PERFORMED THE SAME KIND OF MURDERS IN HIS PICTURES!

WELL, THAT'S A LEAD! LET'S GET DOWN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

4NAR

SOON AFTER...

WE'VE GOT AN **EYE-WITNESS** WHO CLAIMS HE SPOTTED THE ACTOR, **FERRIS HEDRANT**, LEAVING THAT DEPARTMENT STORE LAST NIGHT! WE TRIED TO PICK UP...HEDRANT... **HE'S DISAPPEARED!**

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE ON TO SOMETHING, **ROBIN!** LET'S GET OVER TO HEDRANT'S STUDIO RIGHT AWAY!

LATER...

IT WAS UNFORTUNATE... BUT WE HAD TO LET HEDRANT GO... HE TOOK IT VERY BADLY...

HMM! IT MIGHT HAVE AFFECTED HIS MIND! I WANT TO SEE EVERY SCRIPT OF EVERY PICTURE HEDRANT MADE FOR YOU!

SOON AFTER, IN A STUDIO OFFICE...

BUT IF YOUR THEORY IS CORRECT... THAT HEDRANT IS ***RE-LIVING*** HIS MOVIE ROLES... HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY TRAP HIM? HE'S PLAYED SO MANY PARTS!

MAYBE WE CAN FORCE HIS HAND! HMMM.. ***THIS*** SCRIPT MAY PROVIDE THE ANSWER!

I REMEMBER. A STORY OF WAR-TIME SABOTAGE. HEDRANT PLAYED A DUAL ROLE... TWINS. HE KILLED A MAN IN A TANK ARSENAL...

GOOD! THERE'S ONLY ONE TANK ARSENAL LEFT IN THESE PARTS! MAYBE WE CAN RE-SET THE STAGE... ***BY ARRANGING TO HAVE A BLACKOUT TEST OVER THIS WHOLE AREA TONIGHT!***

MURDER IN THE BLACKOUT! SCREENPLAY BY JIM OKKK CAST

AND THAT NIGHT...

WE REPEAT: THIS IS A ***TEST BLACKOUT!*** DO NOT BE ALARMED... THIS IS A ***TEST BLACKOUT!***

BLACKOUT! IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME! OF COURSE! THE TANK ARSENAL... AND COLD-BLOODED ***MURDER!*** HA-HA!

RADIO·TEL

MAC'S

LATER, AT THE TANK ARSENAL...

WE'D BEST SPLIT UP AND EACH TAKE AN END OF THE ARSENAL. IF HE'S COMING, HE'LL BE HERE SOON!

HE'LL BE LUCKY IF ***WE*** CATCH HIM! THERE'S AN ANGRY MOB OUTSIDE, HEAVILY ARMED! THEY DON'T WANT ANY MORE MURDER!

AND AS THE LAWMEN SEPARATE...

IF HEDRANT IS CORNERED, HE MAY START A SHOOTING WAR AND PEOPLE MIGHT BE KILLED! HMM... THE SCRIPT OF..... ***"MURDER IN THE BLACKOUT"*** GIVES ME AN IDEA...

BURBANK MANUF
TANK ARSE

BATMAN

IN THE NEXT MOMENT, BATMAN DISCARDS HIS UNIFORM AND HASTILY DABS ON A DISGUISE!

IN THE MOVIE, HEDRANT PLAYED TWO ROLES... A KILLER, AND HIS TWIN, THE DETECTIVE, TO WHOM HE SURRENDERED MEEKLY. IF I CAN MAKE HEDRANT FEEL I'M HIS TWIN, HE MAY SURRENDER TO ME!

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AS HEDRANT SECRETLY ENTERS THE ARSENAL, FATE PLAYS A CURIOUS TRICK! HE BUMPS HIS HEAD, INSTANTLY RECOVERS HIS SANITY!

GET HEDRANT! HE'S KILLED TWO PEOPLE ALREADY!

STOP HIM AT ALL COSTS!

LISTEN TO THAT! I'M TRAPPED! I CAN NEVER EXPLAIN! THAT MOB WILL SHOOT ME ON SIGHT!

THEN...

IT'S... IT'S BATMAN... DISGUISING HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE ME! HE'S UP TO SOME TRICK... AND MAYBE I CAN USE IT TO MY ADVANTAGE!

ALL AT ONCE THE DESPERATE ACTOR LEAPS DOWN ON BATMAN, STUNNING HIM! IN THE NEXT MOMENT, HEDRANT HAS DONNED BATMAN'S UNIFORM!

PERFECT! NOW I'LL FIX IT SO IT APPEARS HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE. THE MOB'LL SHOOT HIM... AND I'LL GO FREE!

THOSE DOORS OPEN ON A RAMP! I'LL GIVE HIM A SHOVE AND HE WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP HIMSELF... IT'LL LOOK LIKE HE'S MAKING A BREAK! AND I'VE TAPED HIS LIPS, SO THAT HE CAN'T SHOUT TO ROBIN!

HERE'S HEDRANT! HE'S DESPERATE! HE TRIED TO TAKE POISON... SO I'VE TAPED HIS LIPS!

HA! IN A MOMENT, I'LL PUSH HIM AWAY!

WHAT A SPOT! HOW CAN I TELL ROBIN I'M BATMAN AND HE'S HEDRANT?

SUDDENLY, AS BATMAN HURTLES DOWN THE RAMP!

LOOK OUT! HE'S MAKING A BREAK!

HA-HA! HE CAN'T HALT HIS MOMENTUM! IN A MOMENT HE'LL BE SHOT!

HALT OR WE SHOOT!

THEN, AS BATMAN MAKES A DESPERATE LUNGE, CALLING ON THE AGILITY AND STRENGTH THAT HAVE MADE HIM FAMOUS...

LOOK! HE LEAPED ONTO THE COAL CHUTE! HE'S HEADED BACK INTO THE ARSENAL!

HE'S THWARTED MY PLAN! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM AND FINISH HIM OFF MYSELF!

MEANWHILE...

NO TIME TO STOP AND FREE MY HANDS! I'M IN DANGER OF BEING SHOT ON SIGHT! I'VE GOT TO PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND MY PURSUERS!

AND SO IT IS THAT BRUCE WAYNE... THE REAL BATMAN... IS FORCED TO FLEE LIKE A COMMON CRIMINAL... WITH EVEN ROBIN GIVING CHASE!

THERE HE GOES!

IF BATMAN FREES HIS HANDS AND LIPS, AND TRIES TO EXPLAIN WHO HE IS, THEY'LL THINK HE'S CRAZY! BUT HE MAY HAVE SOME SECRET IDENTIFICATION CODE ARRANGED WITH ROBIN! I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THE KID!

AND A MOMENT LATER...

IMITATING BATMAN'S VOICE IS A CINCH FOR ME, AN ACTOR!

BATMAN TO ROBIN! BATMAN TO ROBIN! HEDRANT'S RACING NORTH, TOWARD HOLLYWOOD! FOLLOW AT ONCE!

THAT TAKES CARE OF HIM! NOW BATMAN'S DOOMED! HE CAN'T GET VERY FAR!

MEANWHILE, AS BRUCE FINDS A MOMENT OF RESPITE AND FREES HIS HANDS BY GRINDING THE BONDS AGAINST THE ROUGH BARK OF A TREE...

IF I TRY TO TELL PEOPLE WHO I REALLY AM, THEY'LL LAUGH AT ME! I CAN'T ALTER MY DISGUISE WITHOUT MY *UTILITY BELT*. I *MUST* REGAIN MY IDENTITY FROM HEDRANT... AND TRY NOT TO GET *SHOT* IN THE MEANTIME!

MOMENTS LATER, AS THE *REAL* HEDRANT COMES THRASHING THROUGH THE WOODS...

THERE HE IS... UP THAT TREE! AND NO ONE ELSE AROUND! HA-HA! SO LONG, SAP!

BUT THEN...

HE TRICKED ME! ARRANGED THE COAT AROUND THE LIMB! NEVER MIND... HE CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!

AND AS THE CHASE LEADS TO A BARN ON A FARM NEARBY...

I SAW HIM GO IN... BUT WHY TAKE CHANCES AND FOLLOW HIM? I'LL USE *BATMAN'S* METHODS.. GAS PELLETS FROM THE *UTILITY BELT*, TO FLUSH HIM OUT!

AND AS THE ACTOR FILLS THE BARN WITH GAS...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE GAS HAS FAILED TO BRING HIM OUT! COULD I HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN IN THINKING I SAW HIM RUN IN HERE?

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE GAS-FILLED BARN...

LUCKY THIS OLD MODEL-T STILL HAD AIR IN ITS TIRES! AND THE CONNECTION OF THIS HAND-PUMP MAKES A FINE BREATHING-TUBE! IN A FEW MOMENTS THE GAS WILL DISSIPATE AND I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

SOON AFTER...

SO HE **WAS** IN THE BARN... JUST AS I THOUGHT! I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT! BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW... HE'S A DEAD PIGEON!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO HOP A FREIGHT... BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD WAY OF GETTING OUT OF THIS IMMEDIATE VICINITY!

AND THEN...

THERE HE IS! NOW I'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED. THIS TRAIN PICKS UP SPEED NOW, GOING OVER WILSON GORGE... HE WON'T DARE JUMP OFF!

AND AS THE ACTOR CAREFULLY MAKES HIS WAY ALONG THE LINE OF FREIGHT CARS...

JEEPERS! IT'S **BATMAN!** HONEST **BATMAN**... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I'M ON VACATION!

YEAH! ME, TOO... **BATMAN!**

HA-HA! THIS IS FUNNY! I'D FORGOTTEN THAT FREIGHT TRAINS HIDE ALL SORTS OF CHARACTERS!

THEN, MINUTES LATER...

THE END OF THE TRAIL, **BATMAN!** AND YOU'VE MADE IT PERFECT! IN A FEW MOMENTS, WE'LL BE OVER THE GORGE! I'LL PUSH YOU OUT... AND THAT'S THE END! I'LL SAY YOU MADE A **CRAZY** BID TO ESCAPE!

I SLIPPED UP! I THOUGHT I HAD ELUDED HIM!

AND AS THE TRAIN RUMBLES HIGH OVER WILSON GORGE...

ALL RIGHT, **BATMAN!** OVER YOU GO! HA-HA!

BUT ALL AT ONCE...

DON'T MOVE, **BATMAN!** I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS... BUT I DON'T CARE! WHAT A BREAK! TO FIND YOU ON THE VERY FREIGHT I'M LAMMIN' ON!

WHO--WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS?

24 Large CONTINENTAL CONTAINER

YOU MEAN... YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ME ALREADY? ME... EDDIE DALE... THE GUY YOU SENT UP FOR LIFE! I BROKE OUT YESTERDAY, **BATMAN!** I SWORE SOME DAY I'D GET YOU... AND THIS IS IT!

BUT WAIT! THIS IS A MISTAKE! I'M **NOT BATMAN!** REALLY! I CAN PROVE IT! I'M **NOT BATMAN!**

SEE! I'M NOT REALLY **BATMAN!** IT'S A GAG! **LOOK!** **OHHHHHHH,** MY JAW!

AND **HOW** YOU'RE NOT **BATMAN!** AND NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL TAKE BACK MY UNIFORM!

10

LATER...

SO YOU TRICKED HIM WITH **VENTRILOQUISM!**

YES... IT WAS THE PERFECT SET-UP! HE COULD EXPECT CROOKS TO BE ON A FREIGHT TRAIN. HE UNDOUBTEDLY SAW SOME. I DISTRACTED HIM JUST ENOUGH TO ENABLE ME TO TURN THE TABLES!

THE END

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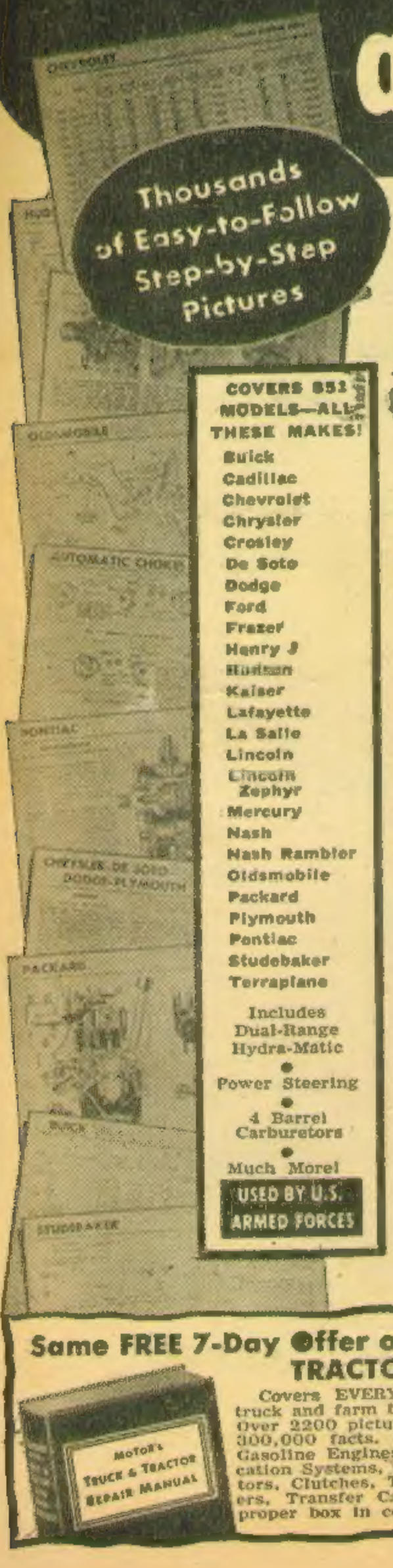

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